

PRIME MINISTER

I attach a short draft on the record statement which I would like to hand to the press at around noon today, subject to your approval.

I have sought to get over three main points:

- the warmth of the welcome;
- our renewed interest in an important region;
- our commercial interest in its development.

I would like to end with the phrase "a very happy and constructive tour" for headline purposes. The Sundays like to write about happiness!

Sum

25 April 1981

DRAFT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON. MRS MARGARET THATCHER, MP,
AT THE CONCLUSION OF HER VISIT TO THE GULF, TODAY (25 APRIL 1981)

I leave the Gulf for home today after a most instructive and stimulating visit - the first by a British Prime Minister to the area.

Wherever I have gone I have been welcomed with great warmth and kindness. I have also found a deep appreciation and satisfaction among the countries I have visited that Britain, an old friend of the area, is taking a closer interest in its affairs.

I believe my visit has achieved two main objectives:

- first, to demonstrate our continuing interest and concern in a part of the world which is of enormous strategic and political significance; and
- second, to get over to my hosts the contribution which British industry, commerce and technology can make to the development of the huge natural resources and potential of the Gulf States.

We can do much in partnership to benefit our own people and the world.

It has been a very happy and constructive tour indeed. And I look forward to returning to the Gulf in the autumn.