

OPS Original on
From PA 73
Summits, Venice Policy
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
TOKYO

Submit with draft reply

(Translation)

Handwritten signature

PRIME MINISTER'S
June 20, 1980
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T130B/80

Dear Prime Minister,

It is my single honour to entrust this message to Foreign Minister Okita and convey to you the thoughts of the late Prime Minister Ohira on the Summit Meetings.

The late Prime Minister Ohira attached a particularly high value to the role the Summit Meetings should play under the present world situation and was exceptionally eager to attend the Venice Summit.

World economy today is threatened by both inflation and unemployment under the severe constraints of energy and natural resources. Prime Minister Ohira had firmly believed that mutual trust and cooperative efforts of the major industrialized countries fostered through the Summit talks would be the only way to meet the challenges and bring about stability to world economy.

At the Venice Summit, Prime Minister Ohira had also earnestly hoped to hold serious and candid discussions on not only the questions on economic management but also on the concrete ways for maintaining and reinforcing the basic order of the international society and strengthening the bond and solidarity of the free world in their efforts towards the common objectives.

However,

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP.
Prime Minister
No. 10 Downing Street,
London, SW1, United Kingdom

C

However, in late May, only some three weeks before his departure for Venice and when preparations for the Summit Meeting were already well under way, he was suddenly taken ill at the incipient stage of an election campaign and had to be admitted into a hospital. Even then the Prime Minister's eagerness to attend the Venice Summit not at all faltered. The sooner his conditions showed some signs of improvement, he made the decision to attend the Summit Meeting despite his ill health, and on 11th June instructed us to make the necessary preparations including request to his doctors to accompany him to Venice. However, in the gray of the morning of the next day, 12th June, his conditions suddenly deteriorated and despite all the possible medical care, he passed away.

It is truly most regrettable.

In pursuance of Prime Minister Ohira's will, we vow to fulfill our responsibilities in order to contribute to the peace of the world and for the democracy to prosper. I am also convinced that through your efforts, this Summit Meeting will produce a result that fully lives up to the expectations of the peoples of the world.

May I send you all my best wishes for the success of the Meeting,

Sincerely,

Masayoshi Ito
Prime Minister of Japan
ad interim