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BRITISH EMBASSY

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JOINT STATEMENT

At the invitation of the President of the Federal Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Veselin Djuranović, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, paid an official friendly visit to Yugoslavia from 24th to 26th September 1980.

The discussions between the President of the Federal Executive Council and the Prime Minister were held in a warm spirit of mutual respect, understanding and traditional friendship.

During her stay in Yugoslavia Mrs Thatcher was received by the President of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Cvijetin Mijatović. They had substantive and constructive discussions on bilateral relations and co-operation, as well as on the current international situation. The Prime Minister also had meetings with other important Yugoslav personalities.

The Prime Minister visited the major steel mill which is being built at Smederevo with the participation of British industry. During her visit to the Socialist Republic of Macedonia, Mrs Thatcher had meetings with the senior leaders

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of the Republic and visited the Organic Chemical Industry enterprise at Skopje. She also visited the Socialist Republic of Croatia and the city of Dubrovnik, where she met leading personalities and toured places of cultural and historical interest.

The President of the Federal Executive Council and the Prime Minister recalled that the friendship between their two countries was founded on the war-time co-operation in which Sir Winston Churchill and Marshal Tito played a central part. They expressed warm satisfaction at the continuation in recent years of the successful development of relations and co-operation between the two countries, based on respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference, equal co-operation and mutual benefit.

The Prime Minister expressed to the President of the Federal Executive Council the sincere condolences of the British people on the death of President Tito who was widely admired as a great international statesman and a founder member of the Non-Aligned Movement, who had devoted his life to the development of his country and the strengthening of its independence and to international peace and security.

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The two Prime Ministers recognised the importance of state and political visits between the two countries for the strengthening of mutual understanding and friendship. They agreed that relations had been greatly strengthened by the visits of President Tito to the United Kingdom in 1953, 1971 and 1978 and the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to Yugoslavia in 1972. They noted with satisfaction the increase in visits and co-operation at all levels and in all fields between the two countries and the expansion of tourism and other forms of contact between their peoples.

The two sides agreed that there was scope for further development of trade and economic co-operation between Yugoslav and British firms and financial institutions. They reaffirmed their commitment to expand economic relations and trade and recognised that the growth of Yugoslavia's exports would be particularly important in increasing bilateral trade. They agreed that greater efforts should be made to promote other forms of economic co-operation including joint ventures. The British side expressed understanding and support for Yugoslavia's programme of economic stabilisation.

The two sides welcomed the new agreement between Yugoslavia and the European Community and agreed that it offered significant opportunities for the broadening and strengthening of  
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economic co-operation between Yugoslavia and the United Kingdom and should contribute to more balanced trade between them. The two Governments will encourage efforts to this end.

The two Prime Ministers drew attention to the dangers of terrorism and repeated the determination of their Governments not to permit any criminal activities which could adversely affect the friendly relations between the two countries.

In discussing international matters, the two Prime Ministers expressed their concern over the serious worsening of the international situation and the consequent threat to world peace and stability. They called for a more constructive international dialogue and strengthening of detente and expressed the conviction that relations between all states must be based on respect for sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, non-intervention in internal affairs, the inadmissibility of attempts to expand influence through the threat or use of force, and equal co-operation. It was agreed that these principles, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations or the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, are fundamental to a stable and peaceful international order. They emphasised their conviction that detente is indivisible and that it should be extended to all regions and be applied to all vital international issues.

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They exchanged views on current areas of crisis, particularly in various parts of Asia, such as Afghanistan and South East Asia, the Near and Middle East and Southern Africa. They agreed that, in the interests of world peace, it was essential to find urgent, just, comprehensive and lasting solutions for these crisis areas on the basis of United Nations Resolutions and the rights of peoples to freedom, independence, self-determination, security and independent internal development. They affirmed their opposition to the use of force to interfere with the independence of other countries and agreed on the need for the withdrawal of foreign forces and a political solution respecting the spirit and principles of the United Nations Charter.

The two Prime Ministers drew attention to the role and activity of the United Nations in the current international situation and advocated its greater participation in the settlement of international problems which concern the preservation of peace and the strengthening of international co-operation.

Bearing in mind the link between international stability and the problems of the developing, and especially the least developed, countries, the two Prime Ministers reviewed the outcome of the recent Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly. They regretted that it had not been possible

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to launch a round of Global Negotiations to begin in January 1981. They agreed that every effort should be made during the UN General Assembly to reach agreement on the remaining issues. The two sides agreed that the developing world faces very serious economic difficulties. They agreed that there was an urgent need to find solutions to these problems and they expressed the hope that the Global Negotiations would result in valuable progress towards international economic relations based on equal co-operation and common interest.

The two Prime Ministers devoted special attention to the complex of problems concerning disarmament. They agreed that efforts to secure a reduction and limitation in the present high level of armaments of all kinds should continue. They reaffirmed the commitment of the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia to work for agreement on effective and verifiable measures of disarmament in both the nuclear and conventional fields in Europe and elsewhere.

In the course of an exchange of views on follow-up to the Helsinki Final Act the two Prime Ministers emphasised the importance which they attached to the forthcoming CSCE Review Meeting in Madrid.

The President of the Federal Executive Council, Mr Djuranović, described Yugoslav views of the importance of the

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policy of non-alignment. He described the activity of the non-aligned countries in present international conditions and the universality of the aims and principles of the policy of non-alignment, which is being increasingly accepted as a real political concept and a stabilising factor in international relations. The British Prime Minister recognised the important and influential role of the Non-Aligned Movement in international affairs.

Mrs Thatcher reaffirmed the value the United Kingdom placed in Yugoslavia's independence, territorial integrity and non-alignment as an essential factor for peace and stability in Europe and the world.

The two Prime Ministers expressed their conviction that the continuation of comprehensive, friendly and equal co-operation between the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the United Kingdom represents a concrete contribution to the strengthening of security in Europe in conformity with the Helsinki Final Act. They agreed that Mrs Thatcher's visit to Yugoslavia will give a new and important stimulus to the strengthening of co-operation between the two countries, both bilaterally and in international affairs.

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The Prime Minister extended an invitation to the President of the Federal Executive Council to visit Britain. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.