

4 June 1979

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

Thank you very much for your prompt response to my recent appeal regarding Indo-Chinese refugees.

I am glad you share my belief that the problem is urgent and that additional measures are desperately needed. I consider it essential to find additional resettlement places, not only for those who have found temporary asylum in Southeast Asia and Hong Kong, but also for the many more who may be arriving during the coming months.

I appreciate your thoughtful suggestion that a further conference of Member States of the United Nations be called to deal with this matter. I would indeed be very happy to convene such a conference under my auspices. However, before such a conference is held, I believe careful preparations would be essential to ensure positive results. To that end, I have asked Mr. Poul Hartling, High Commissioner for Refugees, urgently to undertake the necessary consultations with those Governments who would be most directly involved. I will not fail to keep you informed of the progress of these consultations.

You may be assured I am ready to do anything I can to help contribute to a solution of this tragic problem.

Yours sincerely,

Kurt Waldheim

The Rt. Hon.
Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland