## STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED FROM THE PRIME MINISTER ON CONFIRMATION OF MARK'S SAFETY.

I am very relieved and thankful to have received confirmation that Mark, his co-driver and crew, are safe and well. It has been an ordeal for all of us, and not least for Charlotte Verney's elderly mother in France.

I should like to express my deepest gratitude to the Government of Algeria for everything they have done to find Mark and his colleagues. My husband was enormously impressed with the search and rescue operation they mounted. They have been wonderful. I should also like to thank the Governments of France and Mali for all the help they, too, have given so willingly and so generously.

We are also deeply grateful for and touched by the many expressions of support and good wishes and the large number of offers of help which have poured into 10 Downing Street these last few days. They have warmed out hearts and been of great comfort.

B. INGHAM

14 January 1982