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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T197/80

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New Zealand High Commission
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6 October 1980

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
 Prime Minister,
 No. 10 Downing Street,
 LONDON.

Prime Minister (circled)
MS
Mul

My dear Prime Minister,
 I have been asked to pass to you, the following message
 from Mr Muldoon:

"Dear Margaret,

I am writing to thank you for your strong support for
 New Zealand in the period of negotiations leading up to
 last week's agreement on the EEC sheepmeats regime and
 the settlement of the question of New Zealand's 1980
 butter sendings to the Community.

Your personal backing and understanding, which was translated
 into practical cooperation by Peter Walker and his officials,
 was crucial to maintaining a reasonable approach by the
 other parties to New Zealand's position in the negotiations.

I am sure Brian Talboys will have told you that we now face
 a third issue, that of post-1980 access arrangements for
 our butter exports to the Community. We had hoped - with
 good reason I believe - that this vital issue of long-term
 significance for our entire dairy industry might have been
 resolved at the same time as the other matters. Since that
 proved not to be the case we must return to the negotiating
 table once more.

If the clear and helpful appreciation of New Zealand's
 competitive abilities as a food exporter which determined
 your stance on the sheepmeat question is again available to
 us, we will be well served indeed.

With warm personal regards,

Rob Muldoon."

Your sincerely,
Brian Lynch.
 (B.J. Lynch)
 Acting High Commissioner