



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 August 1981

*Dear Mr Menuhin,*

Thank you very much for your letter of 4 August about European security and disarmament.

You say that Europe should be neutral and independent. I very much doubt that it can be both. Europe can only be independent while it is properly defended. And in the face of the massive military strength of the Soviet Union, it can only be properly defended through its partnership in the Atlantic Alliance.

Unless the Alliance remains united and effective, I fear that there will be no stability or security for anyone in Europe; and there will be no incentive for the Soviet Union to join us in the search for balanced and verifiable measures of arms control - necessarily more modest than those you envisage, but essential as the first steps in establishing the mutual confidence that we both see as the necessary preliminary to progress in the search for security at lower levels of armaments.

*Warm regards,*

*Yours sincerely*

*Margaret Thatcher*

Mr Yehudi Menuhin, KBE

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