

OPS

IRAQ - Part 2 Oct. 80  
Internal Situation

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 212180**

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PARIS FROM LONDON  
SECRET GOVERNMENTAL 0024  
BT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT GISCARD.

MY DEAR PRESIDENT,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 24 OCTOBER ABOUT THE IRAQ  
IRAQ CRISIS. I WAS GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR LETTING ME KNOW IN  
ADVANCE OF YOUR DECISION TO SEND TO THE AREA A MINESWEEPING  
FLOTILLA WHICH WILL BE OPERATIONAL ON 20 NOVEMBER.

I CERTAINLY AGREE WITH YOU THAT IF THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ,  
OR FOR THAT MATTER THE WATERS OF THE PERSIAN GULF, WERE TO BE  
MINED THIS WOULD PRESENT A GRAVE THREAT TO OIL SUPPLIES VITAL  
TO THE WORLD.

FOR OUR PART WE HAVE ON STAND-BY A SPECIALISED MINING  
CLEARANCE TEAM. THIS TEAM WITH ITS EQUIPMENT IS AIR-  
TRANSPORTABLE AND COULD THEREFORE BE IN THE AREA AT SHORT  
NOTICE. IT WOULD CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT COMPLEMENT TO  
EFFORTS WHICH YOU AND OTHER COUNTRIES ARE ABLE TO MAKE.

MEANWHILE I BELIEVE IT REMAINS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR  
ALL OF US TO CO-ORDINATE ACTION IN THIS WAY, IF WE ARE TO BE  
ABLE TO RESPOND TO THE THREATS AND TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION,  
WITHOUT PROVOKING THE VERY DANGERS WHICH WE ARE SEEKING TO  
AVOID.

YOURS SINCERELY,  
MARGARET THATCHER.