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Subject filed in Deaths: Oct 21: Death of Sadat

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T140/81

IMMEDIATE 092300Z OCT 81

MISC.170.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FOLLOWING FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.

MY COLLEAGUES AND I FULLY SHARE YOUR FEELINGS OF GRIEF AND SHOCK AT PRESIDENT SADAT'S DEATH. HE WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL LEADER, WHOSE COURAGE AND VISION IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE WAS OF RARE VALUE.

OUR OWN ASSESSMENT REFLECTS YOUR VIEW THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN EGYPT ARE GOOD. THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES APPEAR TO BE WORKING WELL. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE VERY CLEAR ITS FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF GOOD U.K-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS AND FOR THE STABILITY OF THE EGYPTIAN NATION.

I BELIEVE THAT MR MUBARAK, IF ELECTED PRESIDENT, WILL BE CONCERNED TO FOLLOW THE LINES OF HIS PREDECESSOR'S POLICIES. WE SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THEREFORE THAT EGYPT WILL TURN AWAY FROM THE PURSUIT OF PEACE OR FROM FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WEST AND, LIKE YOU, WE SHALL ENCOURAGE THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT TO WORK FOR THOSE ENDS.

PRESIDENT SADAT GAVE THE GREATEST PRIORITY TO THE REGENERATION OF THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY AND HIS FOREIGN POLICIES, IN OUR VIEW, WERE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THAT AIM. WE INTEND TO GIVE HIS SUCCESSOR THE FULLEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT IN HIS EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT ANWAR SADAT'S VISION OF A STRONG, UNITED EGYPT IN A REGION OF PEACE, WILL BE FULFILLED.

MARGARET THATCHER.
PRIME MINISTER.

MNNN

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