

OPS

IMMEDIATE 170940Z MAY 79  
FROM CABINET OFFICE LONDON  
TO WHITE HOUSE

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T8/79T.....

TO: PRESIDENT CARTER  
FROM: PRIME MINISTER THATCHER  
CONFIDENTIAL

DEAR MR PRESIDENT,

THANK YOU FOR THE HELPFUL LETTER WHICH YOUR EMBASSY DELIVERED TO ME ON 13 MAY LETTING ME KNOW YOUR THINKING ON THE MANY ISSUES WE FACE, WHICH I HOPE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU NEXT MONTH. I WAS ALSO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 9 MAY ABOUT SALT: IT WAS MOST USEFUL TO ME TO HAVE THIS ADVANCE NOTICE OF YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MR. VANCE'S VISIT NEXT WEEK. I AM VERY GLAD HE IS COMING AND THAT WE SHALL HAVE THE CHANCE TO COVER SOME OF THE GROUND WITH HIM.

I SHOULD PREFER, IF I MAY, TO DELAY SENDING YOU A FULL REPLY TO THE VARIOUS POINTS YOU MAKE UNTIL AFTER OUR TALKS WITH MR. VANCE. AT THIS STAGE, I SIMPLY WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT I AM VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANT DECISIONS THAT HAVE TO BE TAKEN IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, PARTICULARLY ON DEFENCE AND ARMS CONTROL ISSUES, IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND OVER INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC MATTERS. YOU CAN RELY ON THE NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO PLAY A RESPONSIBLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS.

WITH WARM BEST WISHES,  
MARGARET THATCHER

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SENT AT 0955Z/17 NH  
RECD AT 0955Z/17  
AND MATE QSL FOR THAT AT 0957Z KKKK