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Anglo-Iraqi Relationship
July 79

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CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 040430Z
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TO IMMEDIATE BAGHDAD
TELEGRAM NUMBER 260 OF 3 MAY.

YOUR TEL 253: HAGGER

1. YOU SHOULD SEEK AN IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT WITH WHOMEVER YOU JUDGE APPROPRIATE, TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.

BEGINS: MR PRESIDENT, I HAVE LEARNT WITH DISTRESS THAT A BRITISH CITIZEN, MR DONALD HAGGER, WAS TRIED ON 26 APRIL AND SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT. THE CHARGES WERE MADE UNDER SECTION 158 OF YOUR PENAL CODE.

I CAN ASSURE YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT AFTER MR HAGGER LEFT THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE PROPERTY SERVICES AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN APRIL 1976, HE HAS HAD NO CONNECTION WITH ANY AGENCY OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT. SO FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, THEREFORE, THE CHARGES LAID AGAINST HIM ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I URGE YOUR EXCELLENCY TO EXERCISE CLEMENCY AND TO ORDER THE RELEASE OF THIS HARMLESS OLD MAN. OTHERWISE I VERY MUCH FEAR THAT HIS CASE COULD COME TO HAVE A SERIOUSLY ADVERSE EFFECT ON ANGLO/IRAQI RELATIONS, TO THE WELL-BEING OF WHICH I ATTACH THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE.
MARGARET THATCHER. ENDS

2. WE HAVE TOLD THE HAGGER FAMILY WHO, IF APPROACHED BY THE PRESS, WILL CONFIRM THAT THEY ARE IN TOUCH WITH US. NEWS DEPARTMENT IN CONFIRMING THE TRIAL AND SENTENCE, ARE TAKING THE LINE THAT SINCE LEAVING THE PSA IN 1976, MR HAGGER HAS HAD NO CONNECTION WITH ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING HOW NEXT TO PROCEED.

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