

OPS

T 117/82 CONFIDENTIAL



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION • LONDON

Acting
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 117/82**

*Subject filed on
Defence, Sales, AFZ*

1 June 1982

My dear Prime Minister,

In the High Commissioner's absence at a Conference in Geneva, I have been asked by my Prime Minister to convey to you urgently his following letter dated 1 June 1982:

"We continue to watch the progress of events in the Falklands - with concern for the losses you have suffered and with admiration for the strength with which you are sticking to the task. I have tried to underline in discussions I have had overseas the fact that anyone resisting aggression, Britain particularly in the Falklands, does so not so much for themselves but on behalf of us all. You should continue to feel that you have the strong support of your friends.

It occurs to me that the time will come at the end of hostilities when you will wish to consider the naval losses you have taken and the state of public opinion in Britain, and that then you might well come to another view about the sale of Invincible. While we continue to be keen to make the purchase, I want you to know that if after such re-assessment the British Government concludes that it should not sell Invincible, then you should tell me and not feel yourself held to any moral obligation.

With this in mind also, the Australian Minister for Defence will not press Mr Nott to conclude contract arrangements until such time as you indicate that you are ready to proceed, although of course for our own financial arrangements if the matter is to proceed, we would want to finalise the contract documents as soon as this can reasonably be done."

Yours sincerely,

R.H. Robertson

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1.

CONFIDENTIAL



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 117/82

PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

1 June 1982

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*Yours sincerely,
Margaret Thatcher*

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON