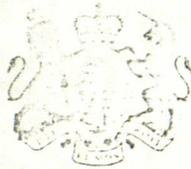


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PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 4A/82

Subject filed on:  
Middle East: Situation in Middle East: part 9,  
10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

12 January 1982

*Dear Mr. President*

Thank you for your message of 23 December, which was delivered through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 5 January, about the Israeli action in the Golan Heights. As you will know, the United Kingdom relinquished the Presidency of the European Community on 31 December. Our position and that of our partners was, however, made known in a statement by the Foreign Ministers of the Community on 15 December.

We made clear then how strongly we deplored the decision of the government and Knesset of Israel to extend Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration to occupied Syrian territory in the Golan Heights. We regard the extension, which is tantamount to annexation, as being contrary to international law and therefore invalid in the eyes of the European Community member states. We believe that the Israeli action prejudices the possibility of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 and is bound to complicate further the search for the comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East to which we all remain committed.

May I take this opportunity to offer you my best wishes in what I know are difficult times for your country.

*Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher*

His Excellency Sayed Gaafar Mohammed Nimeiri