

PRIME MINISTER

As requested, I spoke this morning on your behalf to the mother of Charlotte Verney. She is in her 80s and lives with her husband in Le Mans.

I said that you were of course following the events in Algeria very closely and that you wanted Madame Verney to know that you were thinking not only of your son but also of her daughter. You wished me to express your sympathy to Madame Verney at this difficult time. I added that Mr. Thatcher had left for Algeria yesterday and was now in the region of the search. Madame Verney asked whether he had sent any news. I said he had been impressed by the search operation which had been remounted this morning.

Madame Verney was clearly moved by your message. Agree that Mr. Ingham might tell the Press that you have sent a message to the mother of Charlotte and made it clear that she is much in your thoughts?

P.D.  
agreed.  
A.J.W.

A.S.C.  $\frac{14.}{1}$

14 January 1982