

**SUBJECT**

*Master  
Ops  
Afghanistan*

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T27/80**

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PARIS FROM LONDON  
CONFIDENTIAL GOVERNMENTAL 0002  
BT  
MONSIEUR VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING  
PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

14 FEBRUARY, 1980

MY DEAR PRESIDENT,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 6 FEBRUARY ABOUT THE FRANCO/GERMAN CONSULTATIONS. I WAS GLAD TO LEARN THAT THE MEETING HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL. I AM MOST GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR KEEPING ME INFORMED ABOUT THE OUTCOME.

THE VITAL SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE NATIONS OF WESTERN EUROPE ARE ESSENTIALLY IDENTICAL. THOSE SHARED INTERESTS ARE INCREASINGLY FINDING EXPRESSION AS OUR RESPONSE TO EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN DEVELOPS. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AGREED BY YOU AND HELMUT SCHMIDT LAST WEEK, LIKE THE PRINCIPLES OUTLINED BY PETER CARRINGTON AT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING ON 5 FEBRUARY, IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN A PROCESS WHICH WILL, I HOPE, BE CARRIED FURTHER AT THE MEETING OF THE NINE IN ROME ON 19 FEBRUARY. IT SEEMS TO ME OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT A COMMON APPROACH SHOULD BE AGREED ON THAT OCCASION.

WITH BEST WISHES,

MARGARET THATCHER (PRIME MINISTER)

BT

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