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Defence - TNF
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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER **THE PRIME MINISTER'S** 11 January 1980

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. *T 6^{AB}/80*

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for your message of 15 December.

We too found the outcome of the NATO meeting on 12 December on theatre nuclear forces highly satisfactory. Besides its obvious importance for the security of the West, the decision demonstrated the political will of the Alliance in the face of internal difficulties and an intense Soviet propaganda campaign.

I share your conviction that we should remain sensitive to the special problems facing our Dutch and Belgian colleagues. This is necessary to preserve and build on the consensus already in the Alliance. I also believe that events since you sent your message - in particular the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan - have made it all the more important to strengthen the political cohesion of the Alliance. This places a special responsibility on our two countries, along with the Federal Republic and the United States, to give a lead to our other allies.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming you here on 29 and 30 January.

All best wishes

Yours sincerely

MT

His Excellency Signor Francesco Cossiga

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