

RESTRICTED

GRS 250

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FM FCO 311556Z MAY 79

TO FLASH UKMIS NEW YORK

TELEGRAM NUMBER 225 OF 31 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS GENEVA PRIORITY HONG KONG MOSCOW PEKING  
WASHINGTON CANBERRA WELLINGTON KUALA LUMPUR SINGAPORE BANGKOK  
JAKARTA MANILA TOKYO EEC POSTS.

M.I.P.T.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE.

BEGINS

YOUR EXCELLENCY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE ABOUT YOUR RECENT VISIT  
TO SOUTH EAST ASIA AND THE PROBLEM OF THE INDO-CHINESE  
REFUGEES. I AGREE THE SITUATION IS DESPERATE. THE BRITISH  
PEOPLE ARE APPALLED AT THE HUMAN MISERY BEING CAUSED.

MANY REFUGEES ARE ARRIVING IN HONG KONG, WHERE THERE  
ARE NOW 40,000 AWAITING RESETTLEMENT. WE HAVE OURSELVES  
BEEN SEEKING HELP FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN SHARING THIS  
BURDEN, SO FAR WITHOUT SUCCESS.

I BELIEVE URGENT INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION MUST NOW BE  
GIVEN TO THE QUESTION OF THE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES NOT  
ONLY IN HONG KONG BUT ELSEWHERE. AT PRESENT ONLY A FEW  
COUNTRIES ARE CARRYING THE BURDEN. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR REFUGEES DESERVES THE GREATEST PRAISE FOR HIS EFFORTS.  
REGRETTABLY THE MAJORITY OF MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS ARE DOING LITTLE TO HELP HIM, ALTHOUGH MANY HAVE THE  
CAPACITY TO RESETTLE AND GIVE NEW HOPE TO THESE UNHAPPY  
PEOPLE FROM INDO-CHINA.

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/THE SITUATION



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THE SITUATION ARISING FROM VIETNAM'S INHUMAN ACTIONS IS SO GRAVE THAT I AM CONVINCED THAT A FURTHER CONFERENCE OF MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD NOW BE CALLED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF YOUR OWN HIGH OFFICE. THIS MATTER IS URGENT. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST NOW BE BROUGHT TO A PROPER REALISATION OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. I THEREFORE WELCOME THE APPEAL THAT YOU HAVE MADE TO GOVERNMENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THIS SHOULD NOW BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION. THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE WILL HAVE OUR FULL SUPPORT.

YOURS SINCERELY,

MARGARET THATCHER.

ENDS

CARRINGTON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

F I L E S

SEAD  
HK & G D  
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MR J C NOBERLY  
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