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PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL No. 761/81

NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION

NEW ZEALAND HOUSE HAYMARKET LONDON SW1Y 4TQ Telephone: 01-930 8422 Telex: 24368

From the High Commissioner H.E.The Hon L.W. Gandar

9th April, 1981.

The Prime Minister, The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, 10, Downing Street, LONDON, SW1.

My Dear Prime Minister,

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Rt Hon. R.D. Muldoon, has asked me to pass on to you the following message:

"Dear Margaret,

Now that the Community has at last taken a decision permitting New Zealand continued access for our butter for the next three years, I wish to express my very deep appreciation for the role which the United Kingdom, and your Government in particular, has played in achieving this result. Naturally, the decision is not everything we hoped for, but it does meet a number of our common objectives and will certainly be welcome to the New Zealand dairy industry as providing a measure of certainty for the immediate future. Without Britain's support, and the untiring efforts of Peter Walker in the Agriculture Council, the arrangement would have been a good deal less satisfactory.

We hope to be able to use the breathing space which last week's decision will provide to continue our efforts to broaden and strengthen our relations with the Community in a wide range of areas. No doubt we shall be returning to the specific details of our butter access before too long, as the Community's decision makes inevitable, and I am sure we will be able to rely on Britain's continued support.

In the meantime, however, we hope we can turn our attention to strengthening cooperation in other areas of mutual interest.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Muldoon."

May I add to the Prime Minister's my own warm thanks for the unfailing support and cooperation we have received from the British Government throughout a long and complex process of negotiation.

Yours sincerely,

High Commissioner