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QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

15 September 1981

plw pps for D.A.

Phw

My dear Prime Minister

BBC EXTERNAL SERVICES

I am afraid that, because of long-standing constituency engagements which it would be difficult to cancel, I shall be unable to attend the meeting of OD at 10.00 am on Friday, at which the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's paper on the BBC's External Services (OD(81)42) is to be discussed. On that subject, I believe that we now have to seek the best compromise we can get to avoid serious embarrassment in the House of Commons. Therefore, I should like to record my agreement with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's conclusion in OD(81)42.

I am sending copies of this letter to the other members of OD, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Margaret Thatcher

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP.

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