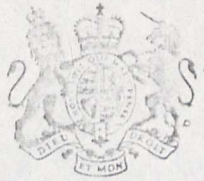


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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 June 1982

I should like to express to you my personal pleasure and satisfaction at the triumphant success of your visit to Britain. We both understand very well the circumstances which prevented us from meeting, but I was glad to receive your good wishes through Cardinal Casaroli and to have the opportunity for a good discussion with him.

I followed closely your progress throughout England, Scotland and Wales and listened, along with very many others, to what you said during your time here. It was obvious that your presence gave great pleasure to millions of British people, and the spiritual comfort which they are seeking.

The first visit to Britain by a Pope would in any circumstances have been an historic occasion. But your own presence here during these six days, perhaps partly because this is a time of national trial, has made a particularly deep impression.

I send you my best wishes, not least for the important visit to Argentina which, for reasons which I fully understand, you have decided to undertake later this month.

His Holiness Pope John Paul II