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ECON POL SUMMIT

PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. *T14/83*

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OO WHITE HOUSE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L
MISC 055.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON DC.

DEAR RON,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 28 JANUARY ABOUT THE ECONOMIC CONTENT OF THE WILLIAMSBURG SUMMIT.

I AM ENTIRELY CONTENT WITH THE APPROACH WHICH YOU PROPOSE ON THIS. MY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE WILL COME TO THE NEXT MEETING OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES EQUIPPED TO REPRESENT MY THOUGHTS AND VIEWS ON THE TOPICS YOU HAVE SUGGESTED, AND ON HOW WE SHOULD HANDLE THE DISCUSSION OF THEM.

I HOPE THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO STICK TO THE GENERAL IDEAS ON WHICH WE ARE BOTH AGREED ABOUT THE FORMAT OF THE SUMMIT AT WILLIAMSBURG. DESPITE ALL THAT HAS BEEN SAID, I CLEARLY SEE SIGNS OF A TENDENCY IN THE WORLD'S MEDIA TO BUILD UP THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR MEETING, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SERIES OF INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS THAT LIE AHEAD OF US BEGINNING WITH LAST WEEK'S MEETING OF THE IMF INTERIM COMMITTEE, AND THUS TO GENERATE EXPECTATIONS WHICH WE SHALL THEN BE EXPECTED TO LIVE UP TO, OR BE REGARDED AS HAVING FAILED IF WE DO NOT LIVE UP TO THEM. THIS COULD BE A REAL PROBLEM FOR US.

ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT, GEORGE BUSH WILL HAVE TOLD YOU OF OUR TALK ON 9 FEBRUARY. IT WAS VERY GOOD TO HAVE HIM HERE, AND I HOPE THAT HE FOUND OUR DISCUSSION AS VALUABLE AND AS ENCOURAGING AS I DID. HIS TOUR WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.

WITH BEST WISHES,

YOURS EVER MARGARET.

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SENT AT 1128/14Z

*cc Sir R Armstrong
Mr Fall, FCO.
Mr Kemp, HMT*

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