



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 March, 1983

Dear Lady Henderson.

Thank you for your letter of 14 February about the London Designer Collections reception for their foreign buyers. I was delighted to hear that you are going ahead with this. As you know, I was very sorry not to be able to hold a Reception myself, and I still hope it will be possible to hold one sometime in the future. In the meantime, I should be very glad to convey my support with a message for you to read out as you suggest, and one is enclosed.

I know the BOTB did give careful consideration to the proposal to hold the reception at Lancaster House, although it was not possible in the event to meet the designers' request. I understand the BOTB nevertheless regularly gives London Designer Collections financial help towards the cost of attracting overseas visitors to their shows and that the official contribution towards the current event is likely to amount to more than £5,000.

I do hope London Design Week is a great success and the effort everyone has put into it is well rewarded.

Every good wish

Yours sincerely

Raymond Shalton

Lady Henderson



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

London Designer week is an exciting and important event for us. We welcome warmly the many visitors who have come to Britain to see the work of our designers. We believe their flair, and professionalism will stand comparison the world over.

In Britain we have a high regard for the fashion industry. It has brought the quality that used to be the prerogative of the few to the lives of the many. It adds greatly to our pleasure and provides interesting work for thousands of our people.

May I say how much personal interest I take in your efforts; in the design, cut, workmanship and detail - not to mention price - of the collections you will see. No amount of technology can ever replace the inspiration and craftsmanship needed to produce beautiful clothes.

Alas I cannot be with you but wish you a happy and rewarding visit.

*Margaret Thatcher*

March, 1983