

Mr Faulkner

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PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. 61 AA183

SECRET

cc. Master
Euro. Pol. Stuttgart Pt. 16
7184 - 1

ZZ BONN

GRS 335

SECRET

FM FCO 091252Z MAY 83

TO FLASH BONN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 248 OF 9 MAY

EUROPEAN COUNCIL, STUTTGART: BRITISH ELECTIONS

TELECON PRIVATE SECRETARY/EASTWOOD

1. DATE OF ELECTIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED HERE AT 1430 LOCAL TIME. THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD LIKE THE FOLLOWING SECRET AND PERSONAL MESSAGE TO BE DELIVERED TO CHANCELLOR KOHL BEFORE THEN AND, FAILING THAT, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER: BEGINS.

DEAR HERR CHANCELLOR

WE ARE ANNOUNCING TODAY THAT THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ELECTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ON 9 JUNE. I WANTED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU AT ONCE.

AFTER THE MOST CAREFUL THOUGH I HAVE DECIDED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST TO DELAY AN ELECTION ANY LONGER. BUT THE DATE I HAVE HAD TO CHOOSE IS VERY CLOSE TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN STUTTGART ON 6/7 JUNE. WE SHALL BE TELLING THE PRESS IN ANSWER TO THE INEVITABLE QUESTIONS THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL OF COURSE BE REPRESENTED AT STUTTGART BUT THAT DECISIONS ON OUR REPRESENTATION HAVE YET TO BE TAKEN.

I SHALL NEED A LITTLE TIME TO CONSIDER WHETHER IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO ATTEND THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN PERSON, IF ONLY FOR PART OF THE PROCEEDINGS. I VERY MUCH WANTED TO ATTEND TO HELP MAKE THIS COUNCIL, UNDER YOUR PRESIDENCY, AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS (AND THIS CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN MUCH IN MY MIND IN THE DIFFICULT DECISION I HAD TO MAKE ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE ELECTION). ON THE OTHER HAND, I KNOW YOU WILL UNDERSTAND HOW DIFFICULT IT WOULD BE FOR ME TO BE AWAY FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING THE CRUCIAL CLOSING DAYS OF OUR CAMPAIGN. I SHALL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU AGAIN ABOUT THIS ISSUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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/OF COURSE,

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OF COURSE, THE QUESTION OF OUR BUDGET PROBLEM NOW BECOMES ALL THE MORE CRITICAL AND URGENT. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN FIND A SOLUTION AT THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL ON 24 MAY.

MEANWHILE, I AM MOST GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR ALL THE HELP YOU HAVE GIVEN TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND TO ME PERSONALLY. THIS WILL BE OF CONTINUING IMPORTANCE TO ME IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS AHEAD.

WITH MY BEST WISHES, YOURS EVER, MARGARET THATCHER.
ENDS.

PYM

NNNN

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