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**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T146/83**

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FM THE WHITE HOUSE
TO THE CABINET OFFICE
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OCTOBER 6, 1983

DEAR MARGARET:

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS APPROACHED YOURS REGARDING A DELAY IN THE ARRIVAL OF GROUND-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

AS WE DISCUSSED LAST WEEK IN WASHINGTON, IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT OUR INF MODERNIZATION PROGRAM REMAIN ON SCHEDULE, AND I WAS ENCOURAGED BY YOUR EMPHASIS THAT THE KOHL GOVERNMENT WILL NOT FALTER. THE DELAY IN THE BUNDESTAG DEBATE, NOW COUPLED WITH THE GERMAN APPROACH TO YOUR GOVERNMENT, ARE ESPECIALLY TROUBLING.

WHILE I AM SENSITIVE TO THE GERMAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD HELP THE KOHL GOVERNMENT FOR US TO DELAY EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES TO THE UNITED KINGDOM. INDEED, SUCH A DELAY COULD ENCOURAGE FURTHER DELAYS AND JEOPARDIZE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATO'S DECISION ON SCHEDULE. THEREFORE, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL INFORM THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT THAT EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES TO THE UK MUST ADHERE TO THE EXISTING SCHEDULE, WHICH ENVISIONS INITIAL DELIVERIES ON NOVEMBER 1. IN MY VIEW, THIS IS THE BEST WAY FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER TO HELP THE GERMANS.

IT WAS GOOD TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTERS WITH YOU FIRST-HAND LAST WEEK. PLEASE KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH.

WARM REGARDS

SINCERELY,

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