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10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
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THE PRIME MINISTER

18 October 1983

Your Majesty,

I was most grateful to Your Majesty for sending His Royal Highness Prince Turki al Faisal to London for discussions on 30 September.

I was concerned to learn that an inaccurate news item had been carried by the BBC on 6 September on its Arabic and Persian Services. This is regrettable. I and all my colleagues attach the highest importance to friendship and co-operation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and share Your Majesty's wish that nothing shall disturb this relationship.

I understand that the BBC followed the 6 September report with an immediate report of the Saudi Government's denial of its inaccuracy.

May I take this opportunity to express my admiration for Your Majesty's efforts to achieve peace and reconciliation in the region, not least in Lebanon, where we have much admired Prince Bundar's tireless attempts to work out a ceasefire agreement. This came as a great relief to us, and our MNF contingent is now playing its part in protecting the ceasefire committee's meetings.

I hope that I may soon have the honour of meeting Your Majesty again, and of benefiting from a frank exchange of views on all the major issues of the day.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Majesty King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahman Al Saud