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PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE



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SERIAL No. T.204A183

Subject Ireland 10 DOWNING STREET
Situation Pt 14

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 December, 1983

My dear Taoiseach.

Thank you for your message about the possible payment of ransom by Associated British Foods in connection with the kidnapping of Mr. Tidey. I was travelling back from India when your message arrived, but my office immediately made enquiries to establish the position and kept me closely in touch.

As you know, the Gardai are in close and constant touch with the Metropolitan Police over the kidnapping. I need hardly say that we feel as strongly as you that it is vital that a ransom should not be paid in a kidnapping case. The apparent involvement of terrorists in this case adds to our resolve. (And you may have noticed Lord Elton's reply to that effect in response to a question by Lord Inglewood in the House of Lords on 1 December.) Mr. Weston has assured us that he totally supports that line, and we will do all we can to hold the company to it.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Dr. Garret FitzGerald, T.D.

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