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via WHCA.

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T.132/84**

Dear Ron,

I was greatly touched by your message of 18 July, and I am grateful for your thoughtfulness in sending it to me.

I did not reply immediately because I hoped that the dock strike might be settled within a few days. An agreement has now been reached and the ports are open again. The miners' dispute has not yet been resolved, but a substantial portion of the industry is at work and producing coal, and we have several months before the strike would do any substantial damage to our economy. I am confident that in due course firmness and patience will achieve a victory for the forces of moderation and commonsense which are Britain's traditional sources of strength. The issues underlying the miners' strike are serious and important and in tackling them it is good to know that we have the support of our friends.

Every good wish,

Yours ever

Raymond

The President of the United States of America.

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FM CABINET OFFICE LONDON
TO THE WHITE HOUSE
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S E C R E T
MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

DEAR RON.

I WAS GREATLY TOUCHED BY YOUR MESSAGE OF 18 JULY, AND I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS IN SENDING IT TO ME.

I DID NOT REPLY IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE I HOPED THAT THE DOCK STRIKE MIGHT BE SETTLED WITHIN A FEW DAYS. AN AGREEMENT HAS NOW BEEN REACHED AND THE PORTS ARE OPEN AGAIN. THE MINERS' DISPUTE HAS NOT YET BEEN RESOLVED, BUT A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE INDUSTRY IS AT WORK AND PRODUCING COAL, AND WE HAVE SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE THE STRIKE WOULD DO ANY SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO OUR ECONOMY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT IN DUE COURSE FIRMNESS AND PATIENCE WILL ACHIEVE A VICTORY FOR THE FORCES OF MODERATION AND COMMONSENSE WHICH ARE BRITAIN'S TRADITIONAL SOURCES OF STRENGTH. THE ISSUES UNDERLYING THE MINERS' STRIKE ARE SERIOUS AND IMPORTANT AND IN TACKLING THEM IT IS GOOD TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE THE SUPPORT OF OUR FRIENDS.

EVERY GOOD WISH,
YOURS EVER
MARGARET

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