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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 19681

23 June, 1981.

Oifig an Taoisigh
Office of the Taoiseach

Mrs Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Dear Prime Minister,

The forthcoming European Council will consider a number of important and urgent issues including the Commission's report on the Mandate given to it on 30 May, 1980. The report on the Mandate will form the basis of a fundamental examination by the member States of the existing policies of the Community and of its future. This process is of crucial importance to the Community and to the member States. Like its partners Ireland is deeply concerned with the outcome of this process especially as regards the Common Agriculture Policy which is of vital concern to it.

It is therefore with very great regret that due to the electoral situation in my country I have to inform you that it will not be possible for me to be in Luxembourg for the European Council on 29 and 30 June. I accept, of course, that because of the urgency of the subjects before the Council, the question of a postponement does not arise.

I am conscious of the need to safeguard the particular nature of the European Council as a forum for confidential discussion between Heads of State or Government. In the present difficult circumstances, however, I feel confident that it will be accepted that the best solution is for me to be represented at the formal discussions in Luxembourg of the Heads of State or Government by my Foreign Minister, Mr. Brian Lenihan.

If the Foreign Ministers meet together for separate discussions, as they normally do over dinner on these occasions, I propose that the Secretary-General of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. A. O'Rourke deputise for Mr. Lenihan, who will have to leave before then.

May I again, dear colleague, express my regret at being unable to join you in Luxembourg.

Yours sincerely,

Oifig an Taoisigh, Tithe an Rialtais, Baile Átha Cliath 2.
Office of the Taoiseach, Government Buildings, Dublin 2.