



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 November 1981

Thank you so much for the message you sent me after your return to Brussels yesterday. Your ideas have been valuable in my preparation for tomorrow's Council.

I indeed hope we can make solid progress on all three chapters of the Mandate. That is what the Presidency will be working for, and your support will be invaluable.

I have one reservation about your suggestions. If we do get stuck, and if we are not able to agree clear and precise guidelines for future policies, I am not entirely convinced that handing the matter back in the way you suggest to the Foreign Affairs Council, even with a tight deadline for decision, will be the best way to proceed. A lot will depend on how the discussion goes. But there is surely a limit to the amount of time we should devote to agreeing guidelines when what we have to do, sooner or later, is find substantive solutions to the problems that face us.

I am extremely grateful for what you said at your press conference, which set just the right tone for our meeting.

We must keep in close touch during the Council. I look forward very much to seeing you in London again tomorrow.

(SGD) MARGARET THATCHER

His Excellency Monsieur Gaston Thorn  
c/o Ritz Hotel