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MOD

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 October, 1983

Dear Derek

Thank you for your letter of 26 September in which you referred to a letter which Mr. David Plastow wrote to me in April about the supply of tank engines to Iran.

I have, of course, replied to Mr. Plastow's letter. I understand that he has no objection to my letting you have a copy of my reply, which is enclosed with this letter. You will see that, in accordance with our policy on the sale of defence equipment to either combatant in the Iran/Iraq war, it was decided that export licences could not be approved for these tank engines during current hostilities. However, I understand that Rolls Royce now entertain hopes of obtaining alternative work from Iran which would not be embargoed under our present policy.

It might, I suggest, be useful if you first discussed the present position with Rolls Royce and then, if you wished, talk with Geoffrey Pattie at the Ministry of Defence.

Thank you for writing to me.

*Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher*

Derek Conway, Esq., MP.

CM