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Correspondence from the Spanish President

~~Prime Minister~~ **PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE**

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Dear Prime Minister,

After a long period of isolation, the Spanish people, as you are no doubt aware, feel a profound need to participate as actively as possible with European institutions. This is a feeling that is fully shared by all political parties.

In particular, we have a special interest in increasing our participation in the Council of Europe, which we believe is crucial to add impetus to the European ideal and strengthen the bonds of cooperations among its member countries.

It is from this point of view and taking particular account of his special qualities, that the Spanish Government's decision to submit the candidature of Don Marcelino Oreja for the post of Secretary General of the Council, must be seen.

While Minister for Foreign Affairs in the transitional period to democracy, Señor Oreja, in contact with all political parties in the parliamentary sphere, took up the important task of integrating Spain with European institutions. He signed Spain's accession to the Council of Europe, as well as the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter. He likewise presided, for a time, over the Committee of Ministers, and is currently a member of the Parliamentary Assembly.

There cannot be any doubt as to his qualities and experience, or as to his European vocation. I must add that Don Marcelino Oreja's candidature receives the clear support of the Spanish political groups represented at the Parliamentary Assembly, going over and beyond any ideological differences that may exist.

I avail myself of this opportunity to assure you of my highest consideration,

(Signed) Felipe González

The Right Honourable
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
10, Downing Street,
London S.W.1.