

Subject: Germany
July 1980 Rudolf Heß

Courtesy Translation

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 39C/84

Letter
from

Herr Helmut Kohl

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

to

Her Excellency

The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher

Her Majesty's Prime Minister and First Lord
of the Treasury

14.3.84

Dear Prime Minister,

Rudolf Heß will become 90 years old on 26 April 1984. For this reason I am turning to you with the urgent request to allow him to return to his sorely afflicted family now after 43 years of imprisonment, of which he has spent the period since 1966 in solitary confinement. In view of his age, his poor state of health and the duration of imprisonment which does not truly meet the purpose of punishment any more, Rudolf Heß, who - as far as it is humanly possible to judge - has not much longer to live, should for reasons of humanity no longer be denied a pardon. This would not diminish the memory of the untold harm which national socialism inflicted on Europe and the world and for which Rudolf Heß shares political responsibility. In 1946 the International Military Tribunal acquitted him of the charge of crimes against humanity and war crimes.

On 15 December 1982 the Bundestag unanimously called upon the Federal Government to seek once again the release of Rudolf Heß.

Despite various requests by his family, Rudolf Heß has until now unfortunately not been given any opportunity for an unmonitored meeting in private with his next of kin.

It is my view that the continued imprisonment of Rudolf Heß cannot be reconciled with the dictates of humanity.

I would be grateful if you could support my request.

Yours sincerely,

sgd. Helmut Kohl