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cc Master

Subject: Aerospace: Space
Policy June 1980.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T41184

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FM CABINET OFFICE LONDON
TO THE WHITE HOUSE
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L

FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

DEAR RON,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR LETTER OF 2 MARCH.

KENNETH BAKER, THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR SPACE, HAS REPORTED TO ME ON THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH HE HAD WITH JAMES BEGGS ON 5 MARCH IN LONDON.

MR BEGGS LEFT US WITH MUCH TO THINK ABOUT REGARDING THE IMAGINATIVE SPACE STATION PROJECT ON WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS DECIDED TO EMBARK, AND WE WILL BE JOINING IN EARLY DISCUSSION WITH OTHER INTERESTED EUROPEAN MINISTERS ON A SPEEDY RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT.

I WAS ALSO DELIGHTED WITH YOUR KIND OFFER TO FLY A BRITISH ASTRONAUT AS A PAYLOAD SPECIALIST IN A FUTURE SPACE SHUTTLE FLIGHT WHICH WE GRATEFULLY ACCEPT. MICHAEL HESELTINE WROTE ON 9 MARCH TO JAMES BEGGS ACCEPTING HIS EARLIER PROPOSAL FOR A BRITISH PAYLOAD SPECIALIST ON EACH OF THE TWO SHUTTLE LAUNCHES OF STAGE 1 OF THE SKYNET IV PROGRAMME. HE WILL BE MAKING AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN LONDON SHORTLY ON THE ASTRONAUTS WHO WILL BE GOING INTO TRAINING FOR THESE LAUNCHES.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING US THESE WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES.

WITH BEST WISHES

MARGARET THATCHER
BT

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