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30/8.

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 August, 1984

Dear Chief Constable,

I am very sorry not to have thanked you before now for your kind letter of 26 June following my visit to Wales.

There is absolutely no need to apologise. On the contrary, I have every reason to be grateful to you and to the members of your Force for all their marvellous efforts - not just during my visit, but also during the difficult times you have had in South Wales more recently.

Like the great majority of people in this country, I believe - indeed I know - that our police do a wonderful job. I am strengthened still further in that conviction by your courtesy in writing as you did.

Every good wish.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

David A. East, Esq., Q.P.M.

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SOUTH WALES CONSTABULARY

DAVID A. EAST, Q.P.M., LL.B.
Chief Constable

*Adkd
(9/8)*

Our Ref: CC/JW/26/6

26th June, 1984

Dear *Prime Minister,*

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I wish formally to apologise on behalf of the South Wales Constabulary that you were the unfortunate recipient of an all too well aimed egg during your recent visit to Porthcawl. Despite this regrettable incident, I hope that you feel the policing arrangements were at one and the same time sensitive to the democratic right to demonstrate and yet conscious of the need to ensure your safety in what might have been an extremely tense and difficult policing situation.

Whilst there has been ill-informed criticism that such an incident could happen, I know that you will appreciate that the police have no right to search for eggs and other such potential missiles. To have removed the crowd even further away would have laid us open to charges of denying the democratic right of demonstration.

On behalf of the Force, I can only repeat my apology.

Yours

sincerely,

David East.

Chief Constable

The Right Honourable Mrs. M. H. Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
No. 10 Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.