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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 2/82

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THE PRIME MINISTER

8 January 1982

Dear Ron,

I was grateful for your letter of 24 December about your messages to General Jaruzelski and to President Brezhnev.

Before replying, I wanted to see what progress was made in our discussions with our European partners in the New Year. You obviously had a good meeting with Helmut Schmidt earlier this week, and he will have given you an account of the meeting of the Ten Foreign Ministers in Brussels on 4 January. The task of reconciling views and interests among ten different countries is never easy and you will be aware of some particular difficulties in this case. Nevertheless, the outcome as reflected in the Ten's Communique is better than seemed likely at one stage and reflects ideas for which we fought hard.

I hope we shall be able to go further in the consultations which lie ahead. The statement in the Communique that:

"other measures will be considered as the situation in Poland develops, in particular concerning credit and economic assistance to Poland and measures concerning the Community's commercial policy with regard to the USSR"

/ will be

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will be helpful in this connection. The last word has not been said. We shall certainly be pushing in the same direction as you, believing as I do in the importance of the Western Alliance and the way of life for which we stand.

We must ensure that the focus of attention is directed where it belongs - at a blatant example of the failure of the Soviet system and Soviet ideas - and not at differences between Alliance partners whose aims are identical.

1981 was an eventful year for us all. I send you my warm regards and best wishes for 1982.

*Yours
Ronald Reagan*

The President of the United States of America

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SUBJECT

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SECRET
FROM CABINET OFFICE LONDON
TO THE WHITE HOUSE

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 2/82

MISC 004
FROM PRIME MINISTER
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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DEAR RON

I WAS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LETTER OF 24 DECEMBER ABOUT YOUR MESSAGES TO GENERAL JARUZELSKI AND TO PRESIDENT BREZHNEV.

BEFORE REPLYING, I WANTED TO SEE WHAT PROGRESS WAS MADE IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS IN THE NEW YEAR. YOU OBVIOUSLY HAD A GOOD MEETING WITH HELMUT SCHMIDT EARLIER THIS WEEK, AND HE WILL HAVE GIVEN YOU AN ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING OF THE TEN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BRUSSELS ON 4 JANUARY. THE TASK OF RECONCILING VIEWS AND INTERESTS AMONG TEN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IS NEVER EASY AND YOU WILL BE AWARE OF SOME PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES IN THIS CASE. NEVERTHELESS, THE OUTCOME AS REFLECTED IN THE TEN'S COMMUNIQUE IS BETTER THAN SEEMED LIKELY AT ONE STAGE AND REFLECTS IDEAS FOR WHICH WE FOUGHT HARD.

I HOPE WE SHALL BE ABLE TO GO FURTHER IN THE CONSULTATIONS WHICH LIE AHEAD. THE STATEMENT IN THE COMMUNIQUE THAT: "OTHER MEASURES WILL BE CONSIDERED AS THE SITUATION IN POLAND DEVELOPS, IN PARTICULAR CONCERNING CREDIT AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO POLAND AND MEASURES CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY'S COMMERCIAL POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE USSR" WILL BE HELPFUL IN THIS CONNECTION. THE LAST WORD HAS NOT BEEN SAID. WE SHALL CERTAINLY BE PUSHING IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS YOU, BELIEVING AS I DO IN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE AND THE WAY OF LIFE FOR WHICH WE STAND.

WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION IS DIRECTED WHERE IT BELONGS - AT A BLATANT EXAMPLE OF THE FAILURE OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM AND SOVIET IDEAS - AND NOT AT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ALLIANCE PARTNERS WHOSE AIMS ARE IDENTICAL.

1981 WAS AN EVENTFUL YEAR FOR US ALL. I SEND YOU MY WARM REGARDS AND BEST WISHES FOR 1982.

YOURS EVER
MARGARET

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