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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 33/83

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THE PRIME MINISTER

21 March 1983

Your Highness.

I am grateful for your letter about the urgent need to take steps to secure an early end to the war between Iran and Iraq.

We are very conscious of the enormous loss of human life, the grave suffering of the civilian population, and the material destruction caused by this conflict. We are also aware of the threat to the security of our friends in the Gulf which any expansion of the fighting would cause. In 1982 we supported the two Security Council Resolutions calling on both sides to initiate a ceasefire and withdrawal to internationally recognised frontiers.

It is very unfortunate that the various attempts to reach a settlement have so far proved unsuccessful. I am not sure how much influence we can realistically bring to bear, but we are willing to support any effort, including through the Security Council, which offers hope of bringing an early and negotiated settlement to the conflict. During his brief visit to your country on 23 March, Mr. Pym will be happy to

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explore in detail how in practice the international community might work to end the present conflict.

Please accept, Your Highness, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Highness Shaikh Isa Bin Sulman Al Khalifah, GCMG