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THE PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S

1 February, 1985

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 16/85

Dear Helmut

During our meeting in Bonn on 18 January, I said that I would write to you about certain indications we had received that a German company are hoping to sell advanced torpedoes to Argentina.

I have been very grateful for the repeated assurances we have received from you that German Surface and Underwater Target (SUT) torpedoes will not be supplied to Argentina. I am sure you understand our concern at the threat these weapons would represent to our ships and submarines in the South Atlantic. I raised the subject with you again because we had received indications from the international arms market that AEG Telefunken were hoping to receive authorisation, even if not immediately, to export SUT torpedoes to Argentina.

Our Ambassador in Bonn raised the matter with Herr Genscher shortly before we met. Herr Genscher told him that your Government was still considering whether to give permission for the manufacture of these torpedoes, but added that if this permission were granted it would be accompanied by a warning that it did not constitute permission to export them. The Embassy were separately informed by your Foreign Ministry that the Federal Government intended to authorise manufacture of the torpedoes.

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I am most grateful for the firm personal assurance which you gave at our meeting that we can continue to rely on the Federal Republic of Germany not to permit the supply of these weapons to Argentina. I am sure you will appreciate that the Argentine Government's unwillingness to declare a formal cessation of hostilities makes it imperative that we continue to seek the co-operation of all our friends and allies in preventing the sale to Argentina of advanced torpedoes and other sophisticated weapon systems which could constitute a threat to our forces.

With best wishes. Warm regards

Yours sincerely
Margaret

His Excellency Herr Dr. Helmut Kohl