



THE RT. HON. MICHAEL ALISON, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

30.7.85

Dear Margaret,

Just before I go on holiday, I hope you will allow me to write and say how marvellously I think that you have led us all throughout the last year. Your courage over the Miners' strike is what I will always remember, and feel deeply indebted to you about. The GCHQ reverse and the Dock Strike didn't make it any easier; but you didn't flinch. You won a victory these so far-reaching that its true scale will only <sup>be</sup> fully perceived from a distance — like a mountain range. You are the first PM since the war to have scorned appeasement when our democratic vitals were under threat; you have made it



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both credible and possible, for the first time since I've been in parliament, for us to look on the rule of law with pride, and on the rule of power with contempt. Hooray! Well done.

Looking at the record, as Tim Flesher and others are so expert in summarizing and specifying it, your performance in government has been literally awesome. The weak, the sick, the vulnerable really have been looked after and cared for better in human and individual terms than ever before, and all that in a period when the country has been struggling under world recession and



unprecedented postwar unemployment everywhere. Whatever the distractions, you have emphatically not "passed by on the other side." And your unflinching commitment to the attack on inflation is characteristically brave and honest: the very hallmark of your quality of government. Brian Griffiths wrote the other day that all the various covert forms of deflation which past governments have practiced — "are all forms of theft and deception, and their enshrinement at the very heart of the financial system exerts a disturbing and corrupt influence."

What a national blessing that you have



not been afraid to repudiate this corruption!

Perhaps above all we are indebted to you for having infected us with your vision, & for having given us all our nerve back. Like you, we now all believe that it is possible for our country to be great again, and to be great by rediscovering and reclaiming true, responsible freedom.... in personal finance and ownership; in competition; in privatisation and so on. It seems as if the British wagon-train is on the move again - west, to the land of opportunity, like the heroes of the American frontier! Each family had its own covered wagon in those days, each its own hopes and



plans; but how irresistible and awesome was that united movement to the west! It is this kind of historic movement that you are leading and facilitating in Britain today.

I fear that you are subject to gross and dispiriting personal attack and abuse. I hope that you will not allow yourself to be downhearted. May I cite the parallel of Moses' afflictions in Old Testament times — a world leader if ever there was one? He was always being criticized. He was criticized by the fellow-Israelite whom



he had rescued from a battling Egyptian. He was criticized by his fellow-countrymen for the route he chose to get them to the Promised Land. He was criticized by Aaron for spending too long with God on Mount Sinai. He was criticized by his sister Miriam for marrying an Egyptian wife. He was criticized by everybody for the dreary diet in the desert. And so on... In response, Moses' patience and forbearance were little short of miraculous. He interceded constantly with God for the restless, rebellious, erring Israelites. He got them to the Promised Land - & they are still there! His secret? "He endured, as seeing Him who is invisible." (Hebrews 11:27.) A sever, <sup>appreciatively</sup> Michael.