

Subject



10 DOWNING STREET

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PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T.216B/85

THE PRIME MINISTER

15 November, 1985.

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*OPS*

*Dear Mr. President:*

As promised in my letter of 29 October, I am writing to follow up the points you raised with me at Nassau.

I sympathise with your desire to accede to the Lomé Convention. We would of course support any application you might make. But, as you know, it does not depend on us alone. On the related point of preferential access for your tuna fish, I understand that tuna fish originating in the Maldives would be entitled to duty-free entry under the European Community's Generalised Scheme of Preferences. However, as the rules concerning the operation of the GSP are complex, the issue is best raised with the European Commission in Brussels if you have been experiencing difficulties. We would be very happy to see whether we could help you with this in Brussels, if your office would like to let my officials know the details of your difficulties. The address of the office of the United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the European Community is rond-point Robert Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels (tel 230-62-05).

You also mentioned the new hospital building in Malé. An official from our High Commission in Colombo has recently visited the Maldives to discuss this and other questions with your officials. We shall be looking at the details of your Government's request.

With best wishes,

*Yours sincerely*  
*Margaret Thatcher*

His Excellency Maumoon Abdul Gayoom

*ls*