

SUBJECT

Japan.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T1/81

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 380
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FM F C O 051509Z JAN 81
TO IMMEDIATE TOKYO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 3 OF 5 JANUARY
INFO SAVING EEC POSTS UKDEL NATO WASHINGTON

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LETTER TO JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER

1. PLEASE ARRANGE DELIVERY OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER IN REPLY TO MR SUZUKI'S LETTER OF 5 DECEMBER .. (COPIED TO YOU UNDER COVER OF MCLAREN'S LETTER OF 12 DECEMBER).

"DEAR PRIME MINISTER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 5 DECEMBER. I WAS VERY PLEASED TO MEET MR ITO DURING HIS VISIT TO LONDON ON 10 DECEMBER AND VALUED MY DISCUSSION WITH HIM.

I FIRMLY SHARE YOUR BELIEF THAT BRITAIN AND EUROPE MUST WORK TOGETHER WITH JAPAN IN TACKLING THE MANY SERIOUS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES WHICH CONFRONT THE INDUSTRIALISED DEMOCRACIES. THE CLOSE CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS IN RECENT MONTHS HAVE BEEN MOST WELCOME. THERE WILL BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE THESE CONTACTS WHEN LORD CARRINGTON VISITS JAPAN IN THE SPRING.

IN RECENT WEEKS THE SITUATION IN POLAND HAS COMMANDED THE ATTENTION OF MY GOVERNMENT, AS OF MANY OTHERS. I KNOW THAT YOU SHARE OUR VIEW THAT THE POLES SHOULD BE LEFT TO SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND THAT A SOVIET INTERVENTION WOULD HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES. THE NATO COUNTRIES ARE CONSIDERING THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE SHOULD THE RUSSIANS INTERVENE, AND I BELIEVE IT IS USEFUL FOR OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS, AND ON THE QUESTION OF ECONOMIC AID TO POLAND. THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR OFFICIALS THROUGH YOUR EMBASSY IN LONDON AND THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN TOKYO.

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AS YOU SAY, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO PUT OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP ON A HEALTHIER FOOTING. THE STATE OF RELATIONS ON THE SENSITIVE ISSUES OF TRADE INEVITABLY AFFECTS THE CLIMATE FOR THE WIDER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EUROPE AND JAPAN. THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ON 25 NOVEMBER SETS OUT CLEARLY THE CONCERNS AND EXPECTATIONS OF ALL THE MEMBER STATES INCLUDING THE UNITED KINGDOM. INVESTMENT AND OTHER FORMS OF INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION CLEARLY HAVE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THESE FIELDS.

I TOO LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO SEEING YOU IN OTTAWA IN JULY.

MARGARET THATCHER''

CARRINGTON

STANDARD
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M E D
E E S D
S A D

COPIES TO:
MR A DUNNING
CREZ DOT