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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T1464/85 10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 August 1985

My dear Prime Minister,

I have kept a close watch on the negotiations in which our two countries have played so active a part for the construction of a genuinely European Fighter Aircraft.

I am naturally delighted that Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom have now decided to move forward to the next critical step when the precise details of the aircraft are established and the industrial allocations in this high technology project apportioned.

But I had always hoped that your country would participate as well. I am pleased therefore that the agreement signed in Turin early today clearly sets out how you could do so and the share of this project which Spain would automatically receive.

I believe that by joining this new project now at its formative stage before the rigidities of design and industrial bargaining present ever larger hurdles, Spain can share in meeting one of the largest industrial challenges Europe has tackled. I do not believe that there is any alternative way forward for Spain which would offer a genuine industrial partnership of the kind we are so anxious to achieve.

I wanted you to know how much importance I attach to your country's membership of this important programme and of my strong hope that you will agree to take part.

With warm best wishes.

Your sincerely
Nagendra Prasad

His Excellency Senor Don Felipe Gonzalez Marquez