



10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

17 February 1988

Dear Mr. President:

I should like to take this opportunity, afforded by the visit of Mr David Mellor, Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to send you and the people of Iraq my greetings and good wishes and to express my hope for a return of peace and prosperity to your country and the region.

As you know, the Government which I lead has been very active at the United Nations in trying to bring an end to the tragic and wasteful conflict in the Gulf.

Mr Mellor's visit is a sign of our wish to develop and strengthen bilateral relations between our two countries. However, it concerns me that the continued imprisonment in Iraq of two British citizens should cast a long shadow over our relations. I am sure you do not want this unsatisfactory state of affairs to persist. If you felt able to exercise clemency on their behalf I am confident that this humanitarian gesture would command widespread respect in this country and remove an obstacle to the strengthening of links between us. It would also earn my personal gratitude. I am in touch with Mrs Smith and Mrs Richter.

DA.

I send my good wishes to your family and to your
colleagues in the Government.

Y
ours sincerely

Nayant Shaher

His Excellency President Saddam Hussain.