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JG

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 February, 1983

Dear Nicholas.

Thank you for your letter of 28 January about the Yalta Victims' Memorial. I was horrified to hear of the despicable vandalism against the Memorial. Such desecration is the act of barbarians and we must hope that the police will be able to catch them. I hope the second Memorial will escape the fate of the first.

Y
Lonsdale

Raymond

The Lord Bethell.

RW



129

FROM
NICHOLAS
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The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP,
10 Downing Street,
London S.W.1.

28th January 1983

Dear Margaret,

Yalta Victims' Memorial

You gave us such valuable support over the construction of a memorial to the innocent victims of forcible repatriation to the Soviet Union in 1945 that I thought it right to let you know of a recent disturbing development.

You probably read that the memorial was dedicated in March 1982 by the Bishop of London. It was a mobile stone sculpture designed to symbolise the plight of the displaced person, together with an appropriate plaque carrying the words agreed between us.

A few months ago the sculpture was comprehensively vandalised - presumably for political reasons. The main "arm" of the sculpture was cut off with an electric stone saw of a type driven by a wheeled petrol generator.

It seems clear therefore that the action was carefully premeditated and carried out by more than one person. I must say that I find it deeply shocking that a work of art should have been destroyed in this way, for political reasons, in an open London square.

We are now busy preparing to construct a second memorial, one that will be less easy to demolish. We are not of course asking that you or the Government take any action, though I hope that the police will catch the miscreants. I am merely writing to put you in the picture, since you gave the project such crucial support.

Yours ever,

Nicholas