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cc: DTI

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

23 September 1983

Dear Sir David,

I extend a very warm welcome to the New Zealand High Level Trade Mission. This is a most important Mission, like its predecessor which you led to Wellington last year. I know that the importance we all attach to the close friendship between our two countries, and to trade between us, is reflected in the high-powered composition of the Mission.

It is my misfortune that the Mission's visit falls in our Party Conference week, when I shall be away in Blackpool and unable to extend a personal welcome to our visitors. But instead I send, through you, my best wishes to the Mission: I hope that the visit is a great success.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Sir David Steel

MS

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Note

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Mr. Parsons confirmed that he had no comments on the draft letter to Sir David Steel.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 September 1983

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21/9.

High-Level Trade Mission from New Zealand:
October 11-14 1983

You wrote to Robin Butler on 19 September about the possibility of the Prime Minister seeing the Wellington Chamber of Commerce's Mission to the UK in the second week of October.

I have had a word with Sir David Steel, and have told him that, with great regret, the Prime Minister cannot find time to see the Mission, given that she will be in Blackpool all week and much involved in the Party Conference and in preparing for her speech at the end of the week. Instead, I promised a letter from the Prime Minister welcoming the Mission.

I attach a draft on which I would be grateful for any comments you may have. I also attach a copy of a letter Sir David Steel has written to us on this matter.

I am copying this to the recipients of your letter.

M. C. SCHOLAR

B.N. Parsons, Esq.,
Department of Trade and Industry.

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cc PS/Minister for Trade
Mr. G.R. Sunderland OT2
Mr. J. Chick FCO

Pl type for PM.

DRAFT LETTER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO SIR DAVID STEEL

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