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DD 102100Z WELLI
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FM FCO
TO DESKBY 102100Z WELLINGTON
TELNO 175
OF 101145Z SEPTEMBER 85
INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS
INFO PRIORITY CANBERRA
INFO SEC(O)(C) MOD

OUR TELNO 470 TO PARIS: RAINBOW WARRIOR

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER TO MR LANGE
DATED 10 SEPTEMBER:-

'DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

'I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING CLOSELY DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE
SINKING OF THE RAINBOW WARRIOR AND HAVE, IF I MAY SAY SO,
BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE THOROUGHNESS OF THE NEW ZEALAND POLICE'S
INVESTIGATIONS. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT
THE SERVICES OF A MINE CLEARANCE DIVING OFFICER, TO HELP IN
THESE INVESTIGATIONS. I AM HAPPY TO AGREE TO THIS REQUEST, AND
HAVE ASKED OUR DEFENCE AUTHORITIES TO PURSUE THE DETAILS WITH
YOURS.

'WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO OUR EXPERT GIVING EVIDENCE
IN COURT ON TECHNICAL MATTERS CONCERNING EXPLOSIVES. THE NEED
TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE COMPROMISE TO THE OPERATING TECHNIQUES
OF OUR OWN FORCES MEANS THAT THE EXPERT WE PROVIDE WILL HAVE NO
KNOWLEDGE OF THE WAY IN WHICH OUR SPECIAL FORCES WOULD GO ABOUT
THEIR BUSINESS IN WAR AND HE WILL NOT THEREFORE BE ABLE TO
ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

'IN VIEW OF THE PROBABILITY THAT OUR EXPERT WILL BE

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REQUIRED TO GIVE EVIDENCE AND THAT HIS PRESENCE WILL BECOME PUBLIC AS A RESULT, I PROPOSE THAT, IF YOU SEE NO OBJECTION, WE SHOULD MAKE PUBLIC THE FACT THAT WE HAD RESPONDED FAVOURABLY TO THIS REQUEST. PERHAPS YOUR PEOPLE COULD CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE CONTENT FOR US TO DO SO.

'I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN OCTOBER.

WITH BEST WISHES, YOURS SINCERELY, MARGARET THATCHER.'

2. ORIGINAL FOLLOWS BY BAG.
3. PLEASE PASS TEXT TO PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND SEEK AGREEMENT TO PUBLISH AS PROPOSED IN LETTER.

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No. 10 DOWNING STREET



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 September, 1985

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

T 160 / 85

cc MASTER
ops

Your Prime Minister,

I have been following closely developments over the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior and have, if I may say so, been impressed by the thoroughness of the New Zealand Police's investigations. I understand that your Government has sought the services of a mine clearance diving officer to help in these investigations. I am happy to agree to this request, and have asked our defence authorities to pursue the details with yours.

We would have no objection to our expert giving evidence in court on technical matters concerning explosives. The need to avoid any possible compromise to the operating techniques of our own forces means that the expert we provide will have no knowledge of the way in which our Special Forces would go about their business in war and he will not, therefore, be able to answer questions on this subject.

In view of the probability that our expert will be required to give evidence and that his presence will become public as a result, I propose that, if you see no objection, we should make public the fact that we had responded favourably to this request. Perhaps your people could confirm that you are content for us to do so.

I look forward to seeing you at the Commonwealth Heads
of Government Meeting in October.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Right Honourable David Lange, M.P.