

SUBJECT

FILE

JM

cc. Master
ops.



cc Ho

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 January 1985

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T14/85

My dear Prime Minister,

When you were in London last year, we agreed on the need to stimulate and develop exchanges between Britain and Japan. We also agreed on the need to arrange non-governmental contacts through the 2000 Group. I am particularly happy therefore that James Prior is able to be the bearer of this message to you on the occasion of his visit to Tokyo for the first meeting of the 2000 Group.

Since our meeting, Ministers and officials of our two governments have been in regular contact in both capitals and elsewhere and you and I were able to have a further talk in New Delhi. I myself greatly look forward to discussion with you at the Economic Summit in Bonn. In addition, Norman Tebbit plans to visit Tokyo in April and Geoffrey Howe is looking forward to greeting your Foreign Minister for a round of talks in London.

Despite these opportunities to concert our positions on many issues, our views differ about some aspects of our trading relationship. The growing deficits in UK/Japan and EC/Japan trade cause us increasing political as well as economic difficulty. I very much hope that your next round of market-opening measures will directly address some of the concerns repeatedly put to you by the European Community and the United Kingdom and will have a measurable effect on the

dar

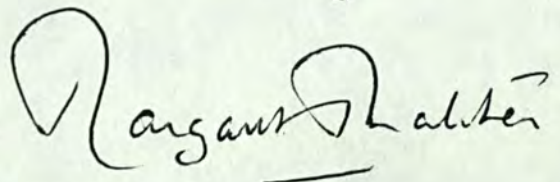
trade imbalances. I believe that it is vital for Japan, as a major force in the world economy, to accept responsibility for finding solutions to the problems of its trade surpluses, so easing the strain imposed by them on the world open trading system - and never more so than now, as we start to prepare for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

To promote our common interests more effectively and to ensure that these problems are tackled more vigorously, we need the sustained support of private enterprise and private sector activity in both countries. Japan's role in the modern world, and the direction of her influence on future world development, need to be better understood in Britain. Equally, Britain's own contribution may not be fully understood in Japan. There are areas of endeavour, of great significance for the future welfare and prosperity of society, in which we need to examine the scope for practical cooperation much more closely. We have a common interest in education, in the arts, and above all in sustaining the values of the democratic way of life.

For these reasons, I greatly welcome the first meeting of the 2000 Group. The Group has a most distinguished membership, both Japanese and British, combining expert knowledge with practical achievement, and covering a very wide range of interests. They are well qualified to explore the territory, to identify the most promising directions for cooperation, and then to spread the word to others on the scope and the advantages of determined action. I attach great importance to the work of the group and am sure that they will put forward constructive initiatives. For my part, I shall study the results of their deliberations with the keenest attention.

With my best wishes.

Yours sincerely



His Excellency Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone