

MISC 137

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PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T60/83

IMMEDIATE TO WHITE HOUSE (DESKBY 09/1230Z)

FROM CABINET OFFICE LONDON 091230Z

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

DEAR RON,

WE ARE ANNOUNCING TODAY THAT THERE WILL BE A GENERAL
ELECTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ON THURSDAY, 9 JUNE. I WANTED TO
BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU AT ONCE.

I AM CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN RIGHT IN THE NATIONAL
INTEREST TO DELAY THE ELECTION ANY LONGER. BUT THE DATE I HAVE
CHOSEN HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR MY PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON ON 26/28
MAY AND WILLIAMSBURG ON 28/30 MAY.

I HAD BEEN MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO MY MEETINGS WITH YOU IN
WASHINGTON ON 27 MAY BUT I KNOW YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS
SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE AWAY FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM
FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN. I AM
AFRAID, THEREFORE, THAT I MUST POSTPONE MY VISIT TO WASHINGTON.
WITH YOUR AGREEMENT I WOULD PROPOSE TO MAKE THIS KNOWN PUBLICLY ON
TUESDAY, 10 MAY.

IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ABOUT WILLIAMSBURG WE ARE AT PRESENT
SAYING THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL OF COURSE BE REPRESENTED
BUT THAT DECISIONS ON THE COMPOSITION OF OUR DELEGATION HAVE YET
TO BE TAKEN. I SHALL LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS I HAVE BEEN ABLE
TO DECIDE WHETHER I SHOULD PERSONALLY ATTEND. I VERY MUCH WANT TO
COME BUT I HAVE TO WEIGH THIS AGAINST THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE
ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND POSSIBLE CRITICISM HERE IF I ATTEND.
I SHALL BE IN TOUCH AGAIN ABOUT THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO EXERCISE FULL
RESPONSIBILITY DURING THE ELECTORAL PERIOD, NOT LEAST WITH
REGARD TO OUR OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS THE WESTERN ALLIANCE.

MEANWHILE, MY VERY BEST WISHES TO YOU AND MY WARM THANKS TO YOU
FOR EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE FOR OUR TWO COUNTRIES DURING THE
PERIOD OF MY PRESENT ADMINISTRATION.

YOURS EVER
MARGRET

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QSL MSG GWA023 AT 091240Z AND THIS IS HD

SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 May 1983

The General Election

I enclose copies of:

- (a) A message which the Prime Minister sent this morning to the President of the United States which deals, inter alia, with the implications of a General Election for her planned visits to Washington and Williamsburg;
- (b) A further message which the Prime Minister has sent to Chancellor Kohl about the European Council in Stuttgart.

I am copying this letter and its enclosures to John Kerr (HM Treasury) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office). I should be grateful if you and they would not circulate the messages beyond Private Offices.

A. J. COLES

Brian Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.