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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 18500/82

P.O. KH (73)
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GRS 143

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FM FCO 291300Z SEPTEMBER 82

TO IMMEDIATE BONN TELEGRAM NUMBER 422 OF 30 SEPTEMBER

INFO PRIORITY BMG BERLIN

ROUTINE PARIS, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW.

HESS: APPEAL FOR RELEASE

1. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAS RECENTLY WRITTEN TO THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT HESS (TEXT SENT TO FOWLER BY BAG). PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE CHANCELLOR.

2. BEGINS: DEAR HELMUT,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECENT LETTER ABOUT RUDOLF HESS. I SHARE YOUR CONCERN THAT HE SHOULD STILL BE IN PRISON AT A TIME WHEN HIS HEALTH IS FAILING. AS YOU KNOW, SUCCESSIVE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS HAVE APPEALED TO THE RUSSIANS TO AGREE TO HIS RELEASE. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO THIS END. WE SHALL ALSO DO ALL WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT, IN THE EVENT OF RUDOLF HESS'S DEATH IN PRISON, HE IS ACCORDED A PROPER FUNERAL.
WITH BEST WISHES, MARGARET THATCHER. ENDS

PYM

NNNN

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- 4 OCT 1982		
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	PA	Action Tak.

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Ref
Germany

30 September 1982

Thank you for your letter of 29 September enclosing a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Chancellor Schmidt's message about Rudolph Hess. As you know, the Prime Minister has approved the draft and I assume that arrangements have now been made for its transmission.

TIM FLESHER

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister:

You will already
have received Chancellor
Schmidt's message. Agree
draft response?

29 September 1982

Dear John,

JH

29/9

Yes Mr

Thank you for your letter of 24 September about Chancellor Schmidt's message to the Prime Minister concerning Rudolf Hess.

I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister, which could be delivered to the Chancellor's Office before his possible departure on 1 October. It is in general terms. The Western Allies are currently negotiating with the Russians in Berlin a Protocol which will provide for the wishes of Hess's family to be met in the event of his death in prison. We are close to signature. In order to avoid complications or delay, we advise that the Prime Minister's reply should omit specific references both to these negotiations and to our most recent appeal for Hess's release. Omission should not strike the Germans as odd since they are thought to be unaware of these developments.

When the Protocol has been signed we shall consider a further tripartite approach to the Russians on release.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats

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Precedence/Deskby

IMMEDIATE

ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	CONFIDENTIAL
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM FCO 291300Z SEPTEMBER 82
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE BONN
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	AND REPEATED FOR INFORMATION TO PRIORITY BONN; ROUTINE PARIS,
	10	WASHINGTON, MOSCOW
	11	HESS: APPEAL FOR RELEASE
	12	1. Chancellor Schmidt has recently written to the Prime Minister
	13	about Hess (text sent to Fowler by bag). Please pass following
	14	reply from the Prime Minister to the Chancellor.
	15	2. BEGINS: Dear Helmut,
	16	Thank you for your recent letter about Rudolf Hess. I share your
	17	concern that he should still be in prison at a time when his
	18	health is failing. As you know, successive British Governments
	19	have appealed to the Russians to agree to his release. I can
	20	assure you that we shall continue our efforts to this end. We
	21	shall also do all we can to ensure that, in the event of Rudolf
///	22	Hess's death in prison, he is accorded a proper funeral.
//	23	With best wishes, Margaret Thatcher. ENDS
/	24	
	25	PYM NNNN

NNNN ends
telegram

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Catchword

File number

Dept

Distribution

Drafted by (Block capitals)

Telephone number

Authorised for despatch

Comcen reference

Time of despatch