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From: The Earl of Bessborough, DL.

Prime Minister
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PERSONAL



House of Lords
01-219 3160

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16th February 1988
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Dear Prime Minister,

I feel I must write to thank you for giving so much time to Robin Caldecote, Peter Emery, Ian Lloyd and myself on U.K. space policy. I greatly appreciated the answers which you gave us and am glad that at least the U.K. ground base station to receive data from ERS1 will now be funded.

Secondly many congratulations on the outcome of the EEC summit. I think you got the balance exactly right. I am glad to see that you did make certain concessions which I am quite sure will in the long run be completely outweighed by the advantages of our belonging to a single internal European market.

Thirdly as the U.K. member of the Jury of the Bentinck Prize, I was so glad to hear Lynda Chalker read out your appreciation of Michael Butler's book Europe: more than a Continent. I should very much like to have a copy of this for my files. It was highly gratifying to me personally that I was able to persuade nine out of the other eleven Jurors that this was the best book out of the short-list of 32.

No doubt people will think I am prejudiced in favour of a more united Europe both politically and economically having a French mother, a Greek grandson and Italian nephews, and I may say that my wife as an American - and in particular a Philadelphian - is also very much in favour of something akin to a United States of Europe. It will certainly be a great day when a greater part of Western Europe, with a population of 330 million, is in a position to match up to the United States, Japan and the Soviet Union, even if our population will take a long time to rise to the one billion in the People's Republic of China!

With renewed thanks for giving us so much of your time on Space.

Yours ever,

Eric

Bessborough

P.S. I hope Ben Franklin's bust is well positioned at No 10 or Chequers!

E.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher FRS, MP