

Subject

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
T 151 / 81
SERIAL No. PRIME MINISTER.....

CANBERRA

28 OCT 1981

My dear Margaret

I am writing to convey my appreciation, both as Chairman of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Melbourne and as Prime Minister of Australia, for your attendance at the Meeting and for the contribution you made to it.

I know that in some respects you might have expected difficulties in the Meeting but I hope that in the event you found it positive and worthwhile. Your own contribution had much to do with the progress which we made.

I am particularly appreciative of your assistance with the drafting of the Melbourne Declaration. The British approach to this and the other economic issues contributed greatly to this aspect of the Meeting. Politically I think we can be happy with the result, especially the robust language on Afghanistan and Kampuchea and the support for Poland. Again, the outcome on Namibia - while strong - was generally supportive of the work of the Contact Group. Your own and Pierre Trudeau's frank and forthright approach to discussion of Namibia contributed greatly to this outcome.

I think that our Melbourne Meeting, in establishing just prior to Cancun a model for a non-confrontational, educative meeting between leaders of developed and developing countries, contributed significantly to the political success of Cancun. The task now, of course, is to carry this momentum forward.

We were happy to show you something of Melbourne and Canberra. I hope you enjoyed your visit.

You sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister of Great Britain,
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