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**6-13 0080/19 M. Thatcher brit miniszterelnök hivatalos magyarországi látogatása –
Official Visit to Hungary of M. Thatcher, British prime minister**

On the cover: "Please file and copy it! Rák R. 02.15. [*signature of R. Rák*]"

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INFORMATION

On the official visit to Hungary of Margaret Thatcher, British prime minister

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Margaret Thatcher British prime minister made an official visit to Hungary between 2nd and 4th February 1984 on the invitation of prime minister György Lázár.

The prime minister met Comrade János Kádár and was accepted by Comrade Pál Losonczi.

János Kádár greeted the realisation of the visit. We know it clearly, – he said – that for the decision there was need of a certain degree of courage from the part of the prime minister. He expressed his conviction that the visit serves an important and good cause in the international situation's difficult period of today. He judged our bilateral relations as good. He touched upon [*original Hungarian says 'trace' or 'feature', meaning describing something not in detail*] our country's history, he mentioned our traditions and characteristics, the role nationalities played in the history of Central-Europe, the main characteristics of our social system, our internal and external political pursuits. He reminded of the Soviet Union's definite demonstrations of [*its*] will for peace, he explained in detail in what he sees the most important terms for the normalisation of Eastern-Western relations, in this particularly the Soviet-American relationship, for the decrease of tension, the renovation of discussions about arms control.

Mrs Thatcher explained that she came to Hungary first of all for Hungary. She makes up a leeway with her visit. She finds personal contacts important. The given international situation gives reason for worry, we are standing in front of a new armament spiral, which would increase more the danger. They see already for their country's geographical position and risk as well, that

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action has to be taken. The medium and small-sized member states of alliance systems also have to do everything for the improvement of situation. The insecurity in the international life is risen by the fact that the United States in the following ten months is going to concentrate on the election campaign, whereas in the Soviet Union the 'insecurity' about the figure of the highest ranked leader creates a problem. The British government arrived at the conclusion that everything has to be done [so] that the security of countries of NATO and the Warsaw Pact would be secured at the lowest possible level of arms. The two alliance systems – although remarkable differences in points of view – are connected by the mutual interest and the need to live together on this planet. There is no other choice, discussions have to be made and agreements have to be achieved by discussions. We have to accept the other part as it is, and the goal of pursuits cannot be the change of system of the other part. She managed to convince Reagan of this, whom she characterised as an honest and decent [original Hungarian: "who feels good"] person, who also regarding his age wishes to do everything to secure peace.

It was a great disappointment for Reagan that after taking office, to his hand-written, honest-toned letter after a long delay he received from Brezhnev a considerably standard, reticent and not returning the initiative letter. After this, Reagan felt that only by restoring the power of America there is opportunity to have negotiations from an equal position with the Soviet Union concerning disarmament questions. In September 1983 upon her - Thatcher – convincing argument the American government started actions aiming to normalise the relations with the Soviet Union, and this process was interrupted by the South-Korean airplane-incident. It is her conviction that the president's speech of 16th January means the natural continuation of the started process, for which there was need of courage, as on his own right-side many accepted this with disapproval.

During the prime ministerial discussions Thatcher judged both the visit and its timing as of great importance. Our people and the nations are worried, because there was made only a small progress. The disarmament discussions were in part sundered, in part are temporarily

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suspended. Be the governing atmosphere of any kind, we have to live in it. There is need of efforts that the events could turn to a positive direction. There is need of understanding between the two alliance systems.

According to Thatcher the USA and NATO honestly wish [for] disarmament. The situation is very pressing, as the quick development of technology may overturn the balance of power. This could result not only a dangerous situation, but it may consume those power sources [meaning unclear] as well, which we wish to apply for the raising of our people's standard of living. Such an agreement should be pursued which would make it possible that both parts shape their fate according to their own imagination, that the tranquillity of living together be secured. On the British side they wish to promote this with the development of bilateral relations, which could have an influence on the progress of discussions concerning the most important questions.

She qualified as realistic the latest suggestions submitted by NATO in Stockholm, which aim to increase trust - from the simpler, one has to move to the solution of more complex problems. The United Kingdom is interested in strengthening European security, in the decrease of military opposition.

Comrade Lázár explained the goals of our foreign policy, our interest in maintaining the dialogue. The continuation of dialogue can have results only if there is a mutual readiness to recognise and respect each others' interest, in case the USA and her allies give a testimony of a higher sense of reality. Any calculation would be faulty which builds upon the internal weaknesses of socialist countries, or that with our alliance system one can negotiate from the position of power.

Thatcher stated: she understands and appreciates our commitment to our social and alliance system, and she came here to discuss bearing it well in mind [*original Hungarian "in the bright knowledge of this"*]. Comrade Lázár stressed: the mutual proclamation of commitment and its clear expression does not make difficult, it rather makes our discussions easier.

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The shaping of our bilateral relations was qualified as orderly, good by both sides. Thatcher invited Comrade Lázár for an English return visit, who has accepted the invitation.

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The discussions were led in an open atmosphere, they gave opportunity to express our standpoint. With the visit the highest level political contact was created between the leaders of the two countries.

Budapest, 10 February 1984