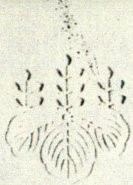
  
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
TOKYO

  
PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 235 B/80

(Translation)

*Subject filed on  
Japan: Hoi visit  
Nov 1980*

December 5, 1980

My dear Prime Minister,

Since I assumed the office of Prime Minister in June last succeeding the late Mr. Masayoshi Ohira, I have been watching the world situation with increasing concern and now wish briefly to inform you of my views.

The first year of the 1980's has witnessed an accumulation of international political issues threatening the peace and stability of the world, such as the Afghanistan problem, the hostages in Iran, and the Iran-Iraq conflict, while the problems of the international economy, including energy and the North-South problem, are becoming increasingly serious.

Under these difficult circumstances, I believe that there is a growing awareness among the responsible leaders of the world of the need for the courage to face the challenge and for further cooperation and closer consultation among their countries. I am glad to note in this connexion that dialogue between Japan and Europe has become closer this year, and am sending to your country our Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Masayoshi Ito, in the belief that he will be

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The Right Honourable  
Margaret Thatcher  
Prime Minister of  
the United Kingdom of  
Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland

able to promote better understanding between Japan and Europe and their concerted action to cope with various international problems.

It is a fact that some problems have arisen, including trade, between Japan and Europe as their relations are developed in various fields. In view of the importance of Japanese-European relations to the international economy, I deem it most undesirable that they should remain as they are. I believe that they should be developed on a solid foundation, in order that cooperation and sharing the responsibility between Japan and Europe may contribute to the peace and stability of the world.

I have been deeply impressed by the strong leadership you have demonstrated in administering your country and respect the positive role your Government have played in the cause of international peace, as exemplified in the settlement of the Rhodesian question. It is reassuring for me to have a colleague like you, who have such faith and courage. I am confident that with your cooperation, relations between Japan and your country and the solidarity of the advanced countries of the West will be further strengthened.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Ottawa next July.

Yours sincerely,

Zenko Suzuki  
Prime Minister of Japan