PRIME MINISTER'S SUBJECT UKICO PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL No. T38183 TRANSLATION OF LETTER TO MRS THATCHER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CONGO On the threshold of this New Year, I am pleased to send you,

Dear Mrs Thatcher

Excellency, and your family, my best wishes for happiness, health and prosperity, and to tell you how grateful I am for the invitation which your Government has extended to my Foreign Thank you very much for it. Minister.

In the face of the present grave and worrying state of international affairs, the Congolese people, its Party, its Government and its Head of State, President Sassou-Nguesson, are all anxious to strengthen their bonds of friendship with all the nations of the world who embrace liberty and peace.

Your eminent role in the search for harmony amongst nations and the stand which your fine country has always taken in favour of international cooperation, cause my country to count the United Kingdom of Great Britain amongst her friends.

The official visit of M Pierre Nzé, like that made by M Itihi Ossetoumba Lekoundzou, my Finance Minister, in September 1982, constitutes for both our countries a happy opportunity to strengthen our bilateral relations.

I am persuaded in advance that Your Excellency will welcome M Pierre Nzé with the understanding necessary for him to accomplish his mission.

High consideration etc