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Fiji: UK/Fiji Relations
Nov '83.



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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 November, 1983

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE**
SERIAL No. T174/83.

Dear Prime Minister,

As the last of the Fijians who were recruited 22 years ago leave the British Army, I am writing to you to express my personal appreciation for their service.

They have served with great distinction on operations all over the world and many of them have seen extensive periods of active service. Moreover they have made an invaluable contribution to the many aspects of British military life and have earned a particularly enviable sporting reputation. Their standards of professionalism have been recognised, and their comradeship valued, by all members of the British Army who will not only sorely miss them from its ranks but also retain happy memories of a mutual companionship in arms.

I am delighted that you were able to be present at the ceremony which took place in Germany at the end of last month and I hope that this will have left you in no doubt as to the real gratitude we all feel for the long and loyal service given by your countrymen.

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For my own part, I look forward to seeing you
at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in
New Delhi next month.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Right Honourable Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, GCMG, KBE.