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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
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PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE
OTTAWA

December 11, 1980

Dear Margaret.

Thank you very much for your message last week suggesting that Francis Pym come to Ottawa to carry on our dialogue on the Constitution. I very much appreciate your acting in this way. As you will have heard, I would be happy to receive Mr. Pym on December 19th at ~~3~~ *lunch.* I understand that he has already seen our Minister of Defence, Gilles Lamontagne, in Brussels and that they are agreed on the basic approach to the visit. As well, our officials have, as you proposed to me, agreed on a press line.

I was particularly pleased that your message made it clear that there has been no change in your Government's position from our understandings last June or from those received by Mark MacGuigan and John Roberts in September. You are well aware of the fundamental priority my Government attaches to these constitutional measures and of our concern to achieve this step in Canadian history as quickly as possible. I was also gratified to learn of your answers during Question Period yesterday, December 9, in which you made it clear that you are committed to following precedent and giving effect to the Canadian measure as expeditiously as possible.

The Right Honourable M. Thatcher
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

I am sure we shall both be pleased when this exercise is over. It is my hope that the way in which we manage the ending of this last constitutional link between our two Parliaments will serve to reinforce the great ties of friendship between our peoples and governments.

Yours sincerely,

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P.S. Thanks dear for to-day's note expressing interest for my message to Beyskner. As you know, I believe we should attempt to make consultations in such matters the rule rather than the exception. Best wishes.

J.