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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 January 1982

My dear Mr. President,

My son and husband returned safely to London yesterday, bringing great happiness after a period of great anxiety. My gratitude to you personally and to the Government and people of Algeria is boundless. My husband has told me of the impressive and tireless efforts made by all those involved in the operation to find and recover Mark and his companions. It was a wonderful humanitarian gesture for which I can never thank you sufficiently. I was especially touched by your thoughtfulness and generosity in providing your personal aircraft for the flight back to London.

May I ask you, Mr. President, that my personal thanks and deep gratitude should be conveyed to all the many Algerians who did so much to produce this happy outcome. I and my family will never forget their efforts.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency President Chadli Benjedid.

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