

SECRET

Original on  
Energy Policy Pt 3

OPS  
PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T6/80

January 8, 1980

Dear Prime Minister Thatcher:

I greatly appreciate your firm backing and support of the international effort to secure the release of American hostages held in Iran. I am aware that you personally have taken a leading role in working with us and the international community.

It has also come to my attention that Iranian authorities are seeking to withdraw deposits from British banks, presenting you with difficult decisions in the days ahead.

As part of the international effort to insure that Iran does not take undue advantage of the current situation, we have worked with your government and others to prevent Iran from concluding contracts calling for sharply increased prices. Before we could meet to define these terms more precisely, however, I understand that British Petroleum and Shell both agreed, under pressure from Iran, to purchase oil from the Iranian National Oil Company at \$30 a barrel.

I regret that such a decision was made when it was, and ask that you use your influence to insure close cooperation with us and others in the future in order to prevent Iran from exploiting current uncertainties in the oil market.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jimmy Carter

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