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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

11 July, 1980.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
Prime Minister,  
10, Downing Street,  
London SW1.

Dear Prime Minister,

I know that you are aware of the controversy that is raging in Wales on the question of the use of the Fourth Television Channel and from a Parliamentary Answer you gave me a few weeks ago and your answer yesterday afternoon in Parliament to Geraint Howells, M.P., I believe that you are also aware of the declared intention of the former Member for Carmarthen, Mr. Gwynfor Evans, to start a hunger protest on the 6 October and to continue it if necessary until he dies.

I need not stress the gravity of the situation that would develop in Wales if Mr. Evans were to sacrifice his life on this issue. I realise that governments are constrained so as not to take any action that appears to be surrendering to blackmail. At the same time it is clearly desirable that a solution be found for this problem before Mr. Evans starts his hunger protest since the political temperature will rise rapidly once he has started and it will be much more difficult to try and obtain a solution.

I am so concerned about the possible developments in this direction that I would ask whether you would be prepared to meet my colleague, Mr. Dafydd Elis Thomas and myself before the end of the month to discuss this matter since if it is left over to the autumn it may well be too late to try and get a sensible solution. I would also ask that at this stage you consider whether any steps can be taken in the House of Lords, - in view of the comments made in the Report Stage of the Broadcasting Bill in the House of Commons, - that might help meet the problem.

I realise that your time as Prime Minister is extremely restricted but I feel that it is better to try and meet this problem now than leave it until a later date when it will be much more difficult to handle.

I shall await to hear from you.

With many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Dafydd Wigley  
Member of Parliament for Arfon.