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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
PRIME MINISTER
MALAYSIA

SERIAL No. T16318/87
17 August 1987

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
LONDON

Dear Prime Minister,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to you, Prime Minister, and to the British Government for the generous and kind hospitality extended to me and members of my delegation during my official visit to the United Kingdom from 20-26 July, 1987.

The visit has been most useful in further developing and enhancing our bilateral relations. The talks I had with you and your Cabinet colleagues, as well as the separate discussions held between our respective Ministers, revealed the deep commitment on both sides to work for better relations. This certainly augurs well for the future relationship of our two countries.

I am very pleased with the discussions I had with leading members of the British business community, the mass media and the tourist industry. The Business Seminar held on Malaysia encouraged me to think that British investors are looking seriously at Malaysia following upon the recent liberalisation measures by my government.



I was happy with all the visits arranged to various facilities. I was impressed by the concept behind the Maidstone Hospital. In addition, the visits to British Aerospace complex at Hatfield, and Cambridge Instruments and P.A. Technology at Cambridge, if I may say so, renewed my faith in the leading edge of British technology.

You may recall we had an interesting discussion on General Secretary Gorbachev's internal reforms in the Soviet Union and his foreign policy postures. I have just completed my visit to the Soviet Union where I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Gorbachev. As it turned out we had a rather lengthy discussion on many issues.

The General Secretary spoke with a lot of enthusiasm about "glasnost" and "perestroika". He appeared determined to effect changes within his country. He gave me the impression that the next two to three years would be crucial to his leadership.

I was impressed by the international implications of "perestroika". Mr Gorbachev's bold initiatives on nuclear disarmament are part of this. The General Secretary's Vladivostok statement on Asia and the Pacific can have positive influence in the quest for the settlement of regional disputes such as Kampuchea and Afghanistan, a point I made in Moscow.

I think we should take Mr. Gorbachev seriously. It would be a significant opportunity lost, perhaps even a serious miscalculation, if the West is overly guarded in its response to his overtures.



Lastly, on behalf of my wife and the Malaysian delegation I would like to once again express my deep and sincere appreciation for your generous hospitality during the course of my official visit to the United Kingdom.

*With best regards,
Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mahathir', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

(DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD)