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MEMORANDUM

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WASHINGTON

NLRR 107-041 #31539

BY AW NARA DATE 2/2/08 December 26, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ROBERT C. McFARLANE *RM*

SUBJECT: Thatcher Letter Concerning Talks with King Hussein & Palestinian Situation

Margaret Thatcher has sent you a letter outlining her discussions with King Hussein in London on December 16th. The main focus of the letter is to argue very strongly that we all do what we can to support King Hussein as he faces difficult choices about reconvening his parliament and entering into new negotiations with the Palestinians. The letter was written prior to yesterday's important meeting between Arafat and Mubarak which hopefully should strengthen the moderates' role, at least in the short run.

While Mrs. Thatcher is not directly critical of your meetings with Prime Minister Shamir, she is worried that this will further polarize the Arab world unless swift actions are taken to correct the impression that we have lost all pretense of being even-handed. She says in very strong terms that we should remain true to the September 1 initiative and press even harder for Israel to freeze the expansion of settlements on the West Bank. Since this is our stated policy anyway, we have little disagreements with Thatcher on this point.

We will be preparing a reply for you to send after the holidays. In the meantime, I suggest that you read Margaret Thatcher's letter.

APPROVE *✓ DR* DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

*Perhaps we should think also of a message of reassurance to King K, RR*

Attachment:  
Letter from Prime Minister Thatcher

PRESERVATION

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DECL. OADR

cc Vice President

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