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FM FCO 101900Z JULY 1981

IMMEDIATE KUALA LUMPUR

TELEGRAM NUMBER 153 OF 13 JULY

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MESSAGES TO HUSSEIN ONN AND MAHATHIR

1. PLEASE CONVEY AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME FOLLOWING MESSAGES FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO

(1) DATUK HUSSEIN ONN

BEGINS

AS YOU LEAVE OFFICE AFTER FIVE DISTINGUISHED YEARS AS MALAYSIA'S PRIME MINISTER I WOULD LIKE TO SEND YOU - ON MY OWN BEHALF AND THAT OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT - OUR VERY BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE. WE HAVE GREATLY ENJOYED WORKING WITH YOU, AND HAVE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED THE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY TIES WHICH YOU HAVE INSPIRED BETWEEN BRITAIN AND MALAYSIA. I HOPE THAT WE SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF SEEING YOU IN LONDON.

MARGARET THATCHER

ENDS

(2) DR MAHATHIR MOHAMMED

BEGINS

PLEASE ACCEPT MY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE AS MALAYSIA'S PRIME MINISTER. I VALUE THE CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND HOPE THAT WE MAY WORK TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN THESE STILL FURTHER.

I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU IN MELBOURNE AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN SEPTEMBER.

WITH BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE.

MARGARET THATCHER

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15 JUL 1981



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