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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 October, 1983

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T155/83

Dear Prime Minister,

During last year's Falklands operation, you made available a Royal New Zealand Navy frigate to the Royal Navy. For most of the time since then either HMNZS CANTERBURY or HMNZS WAIKATO has participated in the patrol in the Indian Ocean.

As you know, this joint operation has now come to an end. Michael Heseltine and Admiral Fieldhouse have already expressed their appreciation to their New Zealand counterparts.

I should like to reiterate my personal gratitude to you for this spontaneous act of generosity, which was characteristic of the staunch support that you gave us over the Falklands issue from the very outset. It has been a great help to the Royal Navy, both during the South Atlantic operation and in its aftermath, to be able to take advantage of the attachment of one of your frigates and I know that both Navies have valued the shared operational experience.

Please accept my deepest thanks.

Warm regards
Yours sincerely
Rogaret Dalbey SH

The Right Honourable R.D. Muldoon, CH, MP.