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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 26/84**

8 February 1984

Your Excellency,

Thank you for your letter about the candidature of Don Marcelino Oreja for the post of Secretary-General to the Council of Europe.

We in Britain welcome the desire of the Spanish Government and people to participate actively in European institutions. I am particularly glad that you wish to play a more substantial role in the Council of Europe, a body which represents the democratic spirit of Western Europe.

There cannot be any doubt about the qualifications, both personal and professional, of Don Marcelino Oreja for the responsible and demanding post of Secretary-General to the Council of Europe. I note the all-party support for his candidature in the Spanish Parliament. It is of course essentially for Parliamentarians, not Governments, to make the choice between the three candidates for the post. I shall therefore ensure that the leader of our Parliamentary Delegation knows of your interest in Don Marcelino Oreja's candidature.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Senor Don Felipe Gonzalez Marques

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