

OPS *as MATTER*

SUBJECT FILED ON:  
GERMANY: Rudolph Hess  
July '80



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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

**PRIME MINISTER'S** 9 April 1984

**PERSONAL MESSAGE**

**SERIAL No:** TSS/84

*Dear Chancellor,*

Thank you for your letter of 14 March about Rudolf Hess.

I do indeed share your concern about Herr Hess's continued imprisonment. Unfortunately, as you know, this is not a matter which the three Western allies can decide without the agreement of the Soviet Union. Successive British Governments have tried on very many occasions over the last 20 years to persuade the Soviet Union to agree to his release; but they have so far remained obdurate.

I have however not given up hope of securing agreement to Hess's release. With his 90th birthday in mind we have initiated discussions with our French and American allies and are at present considering making further representations to the Russians.

*Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher*

His Excellency Herr Dr. Helmut Kohl

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