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OPS



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 February 1984

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

You 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

HL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 February, 1984

Dear John,

Council of Europe

Type letter pl.

A.S.C. 1/2.

I enclose, as requested in your letter of 31 January, a draft reply from the Prime Minister to a letter from the Prime Minister of Spain, seeking support for the candidature of Don Marcelino Oreja for the post of Secretary-General to the Council of Europe.

We know that Sir Frederic Bennett, the Leader of the UK Parliamentary Delegation to the Council of Europe, is strongly inclined to support Senor Oreja. The draft reply envisages that he should be informed of Mr Gonzales's interest. Subject to your agreement, we will arrange to do this as soon as the letter to the Spanish Prime Minister has been sent.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: The Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: HE Senor Don Felipe Gonzalez
Marques

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

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CAVEAT.....

A.F.C. 6/2

Enclosures—flag(s).....

W/No Pa: Sec Gen: Comin of Europe

Jan 84

5 FEB 1984

