



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

13 June 1990

*Y  
Your Holiness.*

May I say how much I valued the privilege of being able to talk to you as head of the Church of the oldest Christian nation during my visit to Armenia. It was evident from my other conversations that the secular authorities accord great respect to your Church.

It meant a great deal to me to come to Armenia, first to share with your people the deep tragedy they suffered in the earthquake, but more importantly to play a part in the rebuilding of the community of Leninakan. What better way to do this than through a school for your children, on whom the future of the community rests.

May I thank you for the most beautiful icon. I will treasure it as a memory of what, in my eleven years as Prime Minister, was one of the most moving of visits.

Finally, may I express my profound regret that it was not possible to visit you in your Church. I hope you will understand the reasons this had to be. May I therefore renew my invitation to you to meet me in London, should you be visiting the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Armenian community here.

*Yours sincerely*

His Holiness Vazgen I

*Nazaretian*

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Rec. Del.

20th June 1990 R5/7

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

Following our recent committee meeting, we are very pleased to write to you in order to express our most sincere thanks and gratitude for the gift from the British people to Armenia, of the Lord Byron school in Leninakan.

We also wish to express our particular thanks to you, personally and as Prime Minister, for officially opening the school on the 10th June last.

Armenia, and Armenians in Great Britain and the Diaspora, are honoured and proud that you made this historic visit, and the exuberant spirit of the welcome accorded to you is indicative of the respect commanded by Great Britain, and the natural desire for those great British tradition of human rights and democracy.

We genuinely hope you will make a longer visit to Armenia, where your popularity is unequalled, and allow this ancient people the opportunity to enrich your visit with their unique culture and history, and their hospitality.

Yours sincerely



S Mouradian  
The Secretary - Management Committee