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FILE

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE

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1. Following is text of letter from Bildt to Prime Minister:

Text begins

In the statement of government policy, which I presented at the opening of the Swedish Parliament on 6 October, I reiterated that the first of the four main tasks of my government's political programme for the present mandate was to take Sweden into full European cooperation by means of negotiations on membership of the European Community. I stated that our aim is to achieve a decision regarding an agreement on membership following a referendum in 1994, permitting membership in 1995.

My government welcomed, in this light, the conclusions of the European Council at its meeting in Lisbon on the opening of enlargement negotiations, with a view to an early conclusion of negotiations with EFTA countries seeking membership of the European Union. We also welcomed the Opinion of the European Commission, which after a thorough substantive review of the Swedish application, recommended the opening of membership negotiations. The Commission's Opinion was subsequently given favourable consideration by the EC General Affairs Council.

Sweden shares the political objectives of the European Community, as laid down in the Maastricht Treaty ("les finalites politiques"). This implies, of course, that we are prepared to conduct membership negotiations on the basis of the Treaty on the European Union.

On the Swedish side we very much hope that the forthcoming European Council meeting in Edinburgh will be successful and that the Council will find it possible to initiate negotiations on enlargement starting early next year.

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I firmly believe that early enlargement negotiations will strengthen the political momentum underlying the European Union concept in all the countries concerned. Sweden, for its part, is fully committed to the task of actively contributing to, and participating in, the construction of the new Europe in the framework of the European Union.

Text ends.

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