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CONSERVATIVE PARTY

THE RT. HON  
MRS. MARGARET THATCHER, P.C. MP  
PRIME MINISTER

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

IT IS WITH GREAT INTEREST THAT I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO MY VISIT TO LONDON AT THE END OF THIS MONTH AND IN PARTICULAR TO THE PLANNED MEETING WITH YOURSELF. PLEASE ALLOW ME TO RAISE HERBY A QUESTION WHICH I SHOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO DISCUSS ORALLY BUT WHICH, GIVEN THE COURSE OF EVENTS, CANNOT BE DELAYED. I REFER TO THE CANDIDATURES OF MR. SCOTT HOPKINS, FRACTION LEADER OF THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRATS, AND DR. EGON KLEPSCH, FRACTION LEADER OF THE EUROPEAN PEOPLES PARTY FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. I AM QUITE AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN IN THE RUN-UP OF THIS ELECTION WHEN THESE CANDIDATURES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. NEVERTHELESS I AM OF THE VIEW THAT WE SHOULD TRY EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT THAT IN CASE OF A FINAL BALLOT WHICH MOST PROBABLY WILL BECOME NECESSARY, THE SOCIALIST CANDIDATE OBTAINS THE MAJORITY OF THE VOTES. THE OUTCOME OF A FINAL BALLOT WILL POSSIBLY DEPEND IN THE END ON WHETHER OR NOT BOTH, THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRATS AN THE EUROPEAN PEOPLES PARTY, WILL VOTE FOR THE NON-SOCIALIST CANDIDATE REGARDLESS WHICH ONE OF OUR TWO CANDIDATES AT THIS STAGE HAS THE BETTER CHANCES. GIVEN THE GREAT POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE ELECTION I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU PERSONALLY COULD HAVE AN EYE ON THIS DEVELOPMENT. I FOR MY PART CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE CDU WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE A FURTHER CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRATS AND THE EUROPEAN PEOPLES PARTY WITHIN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

SINCERELY YOURS

HELMUT KOHL