

TOTTEN CONES

1. The writer is NOT a relative of any description. Many years ago he used to be a member of Hamlethurst G.C. before he "exported" himself to France.
2. I seem to remember that we have "been round this course"

before with some one else
(those name I forget)
making an official
inquiries

3. This must be a
matter for you and
"our man" in Paris and
the PM.

7. I have acknowledged
on a "holding" basis

D 28/2.

RONALD THATCHER

19, RUE VERGNAUD

75013 PARIS

TÉL. 588.29.60

25th February, 1984,

Dear Denis.

No doubt you will have heard of the magazine Politique Internationale, the most reputed monthly covering international affairs in the French language. It is equivalent to the American magazine Foreign Affairs, has no political bias and publishes articles from both socialist (Hornu, Bheysen) and right wing party members.

You will be aware, also, that it awards a prize to the outstanding statesman for his, or her contribution to the causes of freedom, peace and the defence of democracy.

Last year, the prize was awarded to President Sadat, but, you will know that, unfortunately, it had to be accepted by his wife.

The Directors of Politique Internationale would like to offer the next award to the Prime Minister, particularly in recognition of her stand on the Falklands, amongst other reasons.

They hope to arrange the presentation for late Autumn, in person, in Paris, (it would take 6 months to arrange). All the most important people in France would be invited to the reception (800 were present for Sadat).

I have been told that acceptance would not only show friendly feelings towards the French, but could do much to improve Franco-British relations.

The P.M. is highly respected by the French (in spite of the media), and personally, I can add that it would give enormous pleasure to the British community here. As for British politics, world opinion and the P.M.'s position as longest serving Western statesman, you are in a better position to form an opinion.

Rather than using official channels, the Directors have asked me to make a discreet and confidential enquiry as to whether the P.M. would accept the award, and whether they may make formal contact.

If you prefer to telephone your reply, the best times are before 08.30 and after 19.00, English time (except Friday evening) or all the weekend.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Arnold.

P.S. The British Conservative Association remains very active. I have been asked to take over as Secretary.

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