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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 January 1995

Dear President Aliyev,

Thank you for your letter of 14 December, which once again contains an eloquent series of proposals that may only serve to heighten the prospect of a resolution to this deeply divisive issue. I will discuss these further with our Foreign Secretary.

Our position has consistently been that international law must be applied. You know of my personal satisfaction that you have so vigorously pursued an end to the conflict, and have so unequivocally sought a peaceful long-term solution, despite so many provocations against you.

I raised the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh during my recent talks with Mr. Gorbachev. While I found him receptive to suggestions, the somewhat truculent Russian side does not appear open to a comprehensive solution at present. Therefore, your continued effort to build an international coalition around these progressive ideas does seem a natural way forward. In that, you may count on our earnest encouragement and support.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher