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THE PRIME MINISTER

30 September 1991

Dear Rabbi Schacter,

Thank you for your letter of 2 September.

I am glad to have this opportunity to send a message of greetings on the occasion of the presentation to Secretary Cheney and Herr Genscher of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation 1991 award.

I welcome the Foundation's decision to honour these two distinguished men. I congratulate both Secretary Cheney and Herr Genscher warmly on their achievement.

Dick Cheney is a fine and doughty upholder of the principles of democracy, tolerance and pluralism on which our societies are based and which inextricably link them. His resolve, steadiness and wisdom in our partnership against Saddam Hussein's aggression was an example to us all. He has brought the same prudence and good sense to the vital task of adapting the defences of NATO and of the United States to the new international environment.

We are living through an upheaval in world politics. This presents a great opportunity for the values championed by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation. Provided we allies remain both steady and responsive to the new challenges, those values will flourish. With Dick Cheney as one of the helmsmen, we can be confident that they will.

I also congratulate Hans-Dietrich Genscher wholeheartedly. I welcomed unification of Germany as a gain for the whole of Europe. The arrival of new talents, new resources and new markets in the Federal Republic of Germany will contribute to the prosperity of us all. Hans-Dietrich Genscher deserves praise for his untiring and far-sighted efforts on the long road to unification.

Unification symbolised the end of the Cold War. Hans-Dietrich Genscher deserves further recognition and praise for his contribution to the development of relations with Central and Eastern Europe, through his encouragement to these countries to persevere on their varying paths to democracy and free-market economies, and his support for the reform process in the Soviet Union.

I must hold the record as the shortest-serving Foreign Minister in the European Community. Hans-Dietrich Genscher's achievements as the longest serving Foreign Minister of the European Community receive worthy recognition in the presentation of this award.

*Yours Sincerely,
John Major*

Rabbi Arthur Schneier