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THE PRIME MINISTER

It is an honour to send a message of greetings on the occasion of the presentation to President Gorbachev of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation's first "Man of History" award. I warmly endorse the Foundation's decision and congratulate President Gorbachev wholeheartedly.

Over the past year, we have witnessed enormous and wonderful changes in Europe. Barriers which for decades divided the European continent have crumbled, opening the possibility of freedom to many millions of people. President Gorbachev deserves praise for his clarity of vision, as well as his resolute purpose in helping us to arrive at the threshold of a new Europe and the end of the cold war. He has changed the course of recent history.

His new revolution is far from over. I hope it will yet give prosperity and happiness to the peoples of the Soviet Union and in doing so bring greater security and stability to the wider world. There are immense challenges ahead and great opportunities. We already owe him a huge debt of gratitude. His place in history is assured and this award a trophy of his triumph.

*Margaret Thatcher*