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10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

23 February 1990

Dear Senor Aylwin

I am most grateful for your kind personal invitation to attend the inauguration ceremonies in Chile.

Unfortunately, my very heavy commitments prevent me from joining you. We have, therefore, asked Her Majesty The Queen to agree to appoint the Lord President of the Council, Sir Geoffrey Howe, as Her Special Representative at the inauguration.

I take this opportunity to wish you every success in the task ahead, and hope that the good relations which already exist between Britain and Chile will be further strengthened following your country's return to democratic government.

I also renew most warmly the invitation which our Ambassador in Santiago, Mr. Alan White, has already made to you, and hope you will visit Britain in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Senor Patricio Aylwin Azocar