



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

January 10, 1989

Dear Madame Prime Minister:

I thought you might be interested in my personal views about our Ambassador-Designate Henry Catto. I view the United States Ambassador to the Court of St. James as one of the very highest appointments a President has to make. I do view our relationship as extra special.

Ambassador Henry Catto of San Antonio, Texas and Washington, D.C. is one of our closest family friends. Henry was our Ambassador to El Salvador years ago in quieter times. He was our Deputy Ambassador to the OAS. He was United States Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva. He was Chief of Protocol. He has been a very close friend of mine and of Jim Baker's for many years. These friendships pre-date the public service of all three of us.

Henry's wife is the former Jessica Hobby of Houston. You may recall Jessica's mother, Oveta Culp Hobby. Oveta Hobby was Eisenhower's cabinet Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. Her husband was a Governor of Texas. The Hobby family until recently owned and ran the Houston Post, one of our country's leading newspapers.

Jessica and Henry run a substantial communications company which owns several major TV stations. Henry is a real gentleman and he and Jessica will be serious in their approach and yet they will bring a real zest and a great family touch with them.

Because of the wonderful job Charlie Price has done I wanted to be sure we continued with quality, mature representation. Henry Catto will be a substantive Ambassador. He knows of my respect and genuine affection for you and Denis. They are good people -- among our very best. You will not be disappointed in Henry and Jessica.

Sincerely with respect,

The Right Honorable
Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister
London, England