

## **“That Terrible Bomb Attack”**

**Date:** October 12, 1984

**Participant:** Ronald W. Reagan

**Participant:** Margaret Thatcher

**Participant:** Signal Corps Operator

**Start Time:** Unknown

**Place:** Situation Room

Seeking to make contact with British prime minister Margaret Thatcher after the Irish Republican Army bombing of her Conservative Party convention at the Grand Hotel in Brighton, England, President Reagan expressed his relief at her safety and his commitment to stopping terrorism.

**President Reagan:** Hello?

**Margaret Thatcher:** Hello, Ron. I can just hear you. Hello, Margaret Thatcher here. Hello? Hello? Mr. President?

**Signal Corps Operator:** Hello, Mrs. Thatcher?

**Thatcher:** Hello, yes. Right here. How are you? [*Pause.*] Hello?

**President Reagan:** Hello?

**Thatcher:** Hello? I can just hear you.

**Signal Corps Operator:** Sir, she's on there. The audibility's way down.

**President Reagan:** Oh. Hello, Margaret?

**Thatcher:** Yes, Ron.

**President Reagan:** Margaret, I sent a message about that terrible bomb attack, but I just wanted to call you myself, too, and also tell you that—how happy and grateful we are that you were not personally injured, and our wishes and prayers go for those who were injured. And I think this just demonstrates again that we must do all we can to stop terrorism. They'll always have some success, but we can make their job a little tougher—

*End of excerpt.*

“Ronald W. Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, Signal Corps Operator, Thatcher's Operator, and Thatcher's Secretary on 12 October 1984,” Cassette 10A.2, *Presidential Recordings Digital Edition* [*The Presidential Recordings of Ronald W. Reagan*, ed. Kent B. Germany, Ken Hughes, Guian A. McKee, and Marc J. Selverstone] (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014–). URL: <http://prde.upress.virginia.edu/conversations/4022308>