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Message from
Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP
Prime Minister
of the United Kingdom

I am delighted to welcome President Felipe Calderón to the UK. This State Visit will further strengthen the close relationship that exists between our countries. Mexico is a key partner for the UK and our political, economic, cultural and social ties continue to expand and deepen. Mexico has an increasingly high profile in international affairs, as one of the world's most advanced emerging economies and in its current role as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. We work closely in international fora to promote development, free trade, justice and security.

Trade is an important part of our bilateral relationship and is one of the main themes of this visit. Mexico presents major opportunities for British business. UK exports to Mexico rose by 11 per cent in the first 10 months of last year and we will continue to support and develop this relationship. President Calderón and his accompanying delegation of Ministers will meet CEOs from a range of British companies. This will include a visit to Scotland to discuss opportunities in the oil and gas sector and to see some of the first-rate work on renewable energy that British companies and universities are involved in.

The UK and Mexico also share a common view that climate change is one of the biggest dangers facing our countries and economies

in the long term. I am pleased to have this opportunity to discuss further with President Calderón ideas for ambitious international agreements at the UNFCCC meeting in Copenhagen later this year and beyond.

In Britain we have set out measures to extend the lending of the banks so that they can fund businesses and mortgages. We are also starting to deal with a number of changes that must be made to the banking and financial system. The whole world must take action on the regulation and supervision of the banking system and provide a stimulus to the economy, giving support with new investment and helping to reduce interest rates as much as possible. Mexico and the UK share much common ground and I welcome President Calderón's participation at the London Summit which will be an important milestone in the world's response to the current crisis.

I am sure that this opportunity to exchange ideas will be of benefit to both our countries and will lay the foundation for even closer ties between us in the coming years. **F**

Gordon Brown

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