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Message from
Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
Prime Minister of
The United Kingdom

I am delighted that President Felipe Calderón Hinojosa is visiting Britain on his first European trip as President of Mexico. Britain and Mexico have never been closer. We work together in a wide range of areas that are crucial to both our countries, from global challenges, through human rights, to education and culture.

I welcome Mexico's active participation in the Gleneagles Climate Change process. Mexico hosted an important Climate Change Ministerial meeting in October 2006, which the Foreign Secretary, Margaret Beckett, and Environment Secretary, David Miliband, both attended, through the signature last October of a bilateral Sustainable Development dialogue. This dialogue will be a key part of our bilateral relationship in the coming years. And we will continue to work closely together on modernising government and making it more open and accountable to citizens.

The UK has strong trade and investment links with Mexico. The UK is one of the largest investors in Mexico, and Mexico is one of the top ten priority

markets for UK Trade and Investment. World-class Mexican companies are also now investing in the UK. This brings jobs and growth to both countries.

Finally, we also share deep educational and cultural links. Thousands of Mexican students have received Chevening Scholarships to study in the UK, and more than 2,000 other Mexican students attend UK higher education institutions every year. The UK was honoured to be the Guest Country of Honour at Mexico's Cervantino Festival last year. More than 250 British artists performed in 11 States in Mexico, covering music, design, theatre and video, from all four nations of the UK.

President Calderón will have the opportunity to cover all these issues during his visit to Britain. I look forward to meeting him again during his visit. **F**

Tony Blair