

September 2014

Plaza de Margaret Thatcher

I am delighted to send my very best wishes to everyone attending this morning's opening of Plaza de Margaret Thatcher.

I am so encouraged that The People's Party and the Mayor of Madrid are remembering Margaret Thatcher's enduring legacy in this very special way, and would like to pay tribute to their commitment and determination in dedicating an area of Madrid to the United Kingdom's greatest post-war Prime Minister.

Lady Thatcher was a great leader, a great Prime Minister and a great Conservative. As you gather today, it is fitting to remember her remarkable achievements as the United Kingdom's first – and, so far, our only – woman Prime Minister.

Margaret Thatcher defined, and she overcame, the great challenges of her age. She won three elections in a row, serving the United Kingdom for a longer continuous period than any Prime Minister for more than 150 years. And globally she continues to serve as an inspiration to many. Margaret Thatcher was one of the very few leaders who changed the political landscape not only in her own country, but in the rest of the world. Today's ceremony is testament to her truly international legacy.

It is also fitting that, as Plaza de Margaret Thatcher is opened today, the Conservative convictions that Margaret Thatcher embodied live on in the British Conservative Party and The People's Party. Margaret Thatcher could sum up those convictions in just a few short phrases: sound money; strong defence; liberty under the rule of law; you should not spend what you have not earned; Governments do not create wealth, but businesses do.

The clarity of her convictions was applied with great courage to the problems of her age, and these Conservative convictions remain just as relevant and important today.

So I would like to thank, once again, the Mayor and people of Madrid for the Plaza de Margaret Thatcher. It is a great honour for my Party and a demonstration of the close ties between our two countries. I would like to send you all my very best wishes for an enjoyable and successful opening ceremony.

