

# United Kingdom



## Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher



Margaret Thatcher has served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom since May 4, 1979. She is Britain's first woman Prime Minister and the first Prime Minister this century to be elected to serve three consecutive terms.

Born in October 1925, in Grantham, Mrs. Thatcher was educated at Oxford, obtaining a degree in natural science and a Master of Arts. She spent four years as a research chemist and read for the Bar during this time. She was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1954, and practised as a barrister, specialising in taxation law.

Mrs. Thatcher contested two parliamentary elections for the Conservative Party before being elected to the House of Commons in 1959. Her first ministerial appointment was in 1961, as Parliamentary Secretary to the then Minister of Pensions and National Insurance. She was a front-bench spokesperson for the Conservative Party in opposition and became a member of the Shadow Cabinet. On her party's

return to office in 1970, Mrs. Thatcher was appointed Secretary of State for Education and Science and was made a Privy Counsellor. She was elected Leader of the Conservative Party, and thus Leader of the Opposition, in February 1975.

This will be Prime Minister Thatcher's 10th economic summit. She will be accompanied by Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson. Mrs. Thatcher's Personal Representative is Nigel Wicks.