

PART A

CONFIDENTIAL

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PO -CH /GH/0099



PART A

Begins: 30/4/83

Ends: 8/5/84

COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARY
ASSOCIATION (CPA) ANNUAL
CONFERENCE, LONDON, 1986

PO -CH /GH/0099

PART A

FROM: SIR PETER MILLS, MP

we shall be getting advice from 15/5

Telegrams: "EMPARLASSO, LONDON-SW1"
Telephone: 01-219 5373



WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

Mr Rayner

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

*EST, EST, EST
MSTC, MSTC April, 1983.*

*Mr Bailey, Mr Wilding,
Mr Lidmore, Mr Mongel,*

CPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 1986

Mr Mountfield, Mr Yeo

1 Geoffrey

You will remember that I wrote to you last October seeking Treasury approval to hold the CPA Annual Conference in London in 1986.

In my letter I pointed out that:-

- a) In 1986 it will be 13 years since the CPA Annual Conference was last held in Britain.
- b) The CPA Annual Conference is held in a different Commonwealth country each year; a balance being maintained between old and new Commonwealth countries.
- c) 1986 will be the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Empire Parliamentary Association, which in 1948 became the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

It would therefore seem appropriate and timely to hold the CPA Annual Conference in London in 1986. The concern expressed in my letter about the Annual Conference being held in the Isle of Man in 1984 and subsequently in the UK two years later has been resolved. Neither the UK Branch Executive Committee nor the CPA Executive Committee foresee any difficulty in holding the Conference in London two years after it is held in Douglas.

It is the hope of the UK Branch Executive Committee that Treasury approval will be forthcoming for the necessary expenditure on the Conference. This approval will be required before the Prime Minister can be advised to issue a formal invitation to the CPA. It would be appropriate for such an invitation to be issued during the CPA Annual Conference which will be held in September this year in Nairobi.

The cost of the CPA Annual Conference is traditionally borne by the host Branch. In 1973, the sum of £150,000 was allocated by the Treasury for the cost of the Conference. About 65% of the sum allocated was required to pay for the hotel bills of the 200 delegates attending the Conference. In 1986 there are expected to be about 300 delegates attending

cont/d../2

the CPA Annual Conference. It would therefore seem prudent to allocate five times the 1973 subvention (hotel costs are expected to have risen by a factor of five in the period 1973-1986) adjusted to take account of the additional number of delegates at the Conference,

i.e. £150,000 x 5 x 300/200 = £1,125,000

The UK Branch Secretary will furnish the Treasury with detailed estimates of Conference expenses once these have been carefully scrutinised by the UK Branch Executive Committee. However, it is suggested that no attempt is made to provide detailed estimates of cost until 1984/85 when hotel prices for 1986 have been confirmed. In the meantime, Treasury approval is requested in principle in order that the Prime Minister may be requested to issue a formal invitation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to attend the Annual Conference in London in 1986.

*With kind regards
John*

(Deputy Chairman)
United Kingdom Branch

Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP,
Chancellor of the Exchequer,
The Treasury,
Great George Street,
LONDON SW1.

From: P M RAYNER
Date: 13 May 1983

CHANCELLOR

cc: Chief Secretary
Financial Secretary
Minister of State (C)
Minister of State (R)
Mr Bailey
Mr Wilding
Mr Gilmore
Mr Monger
Mr Mountfield
Mr Yeo

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1986

Sir Peter Mills has written to you asking for Treasury approval in principle to the CPA's Annual Conference being held in London in 1986. You will recall that when he raised the matter last October we were concerned about the considerable cost (about £1m) but also that consideration of public expenditure for the latter part of the 1986 does not fall due until the 1983 Survey.

2. The cost is now estimated by the CPA at £1,125,000 and work on the Survey is soon to begin, but it is not yet possible to say whether that such a sum can be accommodated. Nor, as Miss O'Mara's minute to me of 11 May records, can we be sure that the estimated cost is justified.

3. Given the Election, we doubt if you will want to pursue the issue now. Indeed, the CPA will be reconstituted at the beginning of the new Parliament and may well feel it inappropriate for them to take the matter any further at this stage. Whether we can hold the decision off until the Survey (when it should properly be taken) is another matter. The CPA wish the decision to be announced in September. So we intend to be ready to advise on the letter once the Election is over.

4. We recommend that you should say that the matter will be taken forward after the Election. The draft letter leaves open the option of then arguing that the decision should be left until the main Survey decisions are taken. Meanwhile we will seek details of the estimate from the Secretary.



P M RAYNER

M Kyle

DRAFT LETTER FROM: THE CHANCELLOR
TO: SIR PETER MILLS MP
Westminster Hall,

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL CONFERENCE
1986

Nancy

~~Thank you for your letter requesting Treasury approval in principal to the proposal that the Annual Conference of the CPA in 1986 should be held in London.~~

It is clearly we can't take this forward for the present.

2. ~~Your letter comes at an awkward time because Public Expenditure Survey? this year will fall to the Treasury Ministers in the new Government rather than to the present Chief Secretary and myself. I will see that your letter is considered at that time. But the proposal will undoubtedly then be considered by the Chancellor and Chief Secretary Treasury Ministers.~~

Who knows who will be conducting this year's Public

(GEOFFREY HOWE)



FROM: M E DONNELLY

DATE: 16 May 1983

(MJD)

PS/CHANCELLOR - 2

cc PS/Chief Secretary
PS/Economic Secretary
PS/Minister of State (C)
PS/Minister of State (R)
Mr Bailey
Mr Wilding
Mr Gilmore
Mr Monger
Mr Mountfield
Mr Yeo

CPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 1986

The Financial Secretary has seen Miss O'Mara's note of 11 May. He recalls attending a CPA conference in Bermuda round about 1974. He has commented that it lasted about a week, which was much longer than was required to deal with the actual business of the meeting. Most of the time of spent on purely social jollies.

He also recalls staying in a fairly grotty hotel; and considers that Sir Peter Mill's estimates of the finance required for 1986 are far and way beyond what could possibly be considered reasonable.

MED

M E DONNELLY

*17 papers put in lost night
for minute
17/5
CDH*



FROM: C D HARRISON
DATE: 16 May 1983

MISS O'MARA ✓

- cc PS/Chief Secretary
- PS/Financial Secretary
- PS/Minister of State (C)
- PS/Minister of State (R)
- Mr A M Bailey
- Mr Wilding
- Mr Gilmore
- Mr Monger
- Mr Mountfield
- Mr P Rayner
- Mr Yeo

CPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 1986

Your minute of 11 May to Mr Rayner refers.

2. Economic Secretary has never attended a CPA Conference. But he agrees with the Chancellor and the Financial Secretary that the 1986 Conference need not last as long as a fortnight and delegates should certainly not stay at the Grosvenor House Hotel at a cost of £100 per day.

CDH

C D HARRISON

(12)



FROM: MISS F P BOGAN

DATE: 1 June 1983

MISS O'MARA

cc PS/Chief Secretary
PS/Financial Secretary
PS/Economic Secretary
PS/Minister of State (C)
Mr Bailey
Mr Wilding
Mr Gilmore
Mr Monger
Mr Mountfield
Mr Yeo

CPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 1986

The Minister of State (R) has, rather belatedly I am afraid, seen your minute of 11 May to Mr Rayner. He agrees with other Ministers that 14 days is probably too long and the Grosvenor House Hotel too expensive.

FP Bogan

MISS F P BOGAN
Assistant Private Secretary

(H)



FROM: APS/Minister of State (C)
DATE: 3 June 1983

PS/CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

cc PS/Chief Secretary
PS/Financial Secretary
PS/Economic Secretary
PS/Minister of State (R)
Mr Bailey
Mr Wilding
Mr Gilmore
Mr Monger
Mr Mountfield
Mr Yeo
Mr Russell

CPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 1986

Unfortunately the Minister of State (C) has only recently seen your minute of 11 May to Mr Rayner. Although he has not himself attended a CPA Conference, he has commented that if we are to be the host we should not be too mean about it.

Debbie McCambridge

MISS D C McCAMBRIDGE

384
7

From S H Woodall
27 July 1983

hR 29/7

1. MR RAYNER
2. CHANCELLOR

Copies attached for

Chief Secretary
 Financial Secretary
 Economic Secretary
 Minister of State

Mr Bailey — Mr Latham
 Mr Wilding — Mr Unwin
 Mr Gilmore — Mr Carey
 Mr Watson
 Mr Mountfield

Mr Beestall
 Mr Ridley Dr Lovell

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPAS): ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1986

On 14 October 1982 and in April 1983, Sir Peter Mills wrote to the (then) Chancellor seeking his support for a proposal that the UK should offer to host the 1986 Conference in London. The CPA estimate the cost at just over £1m.

2. In his reply of 20 October 1982 Sir Geoffrey Howe questioned the need to offer London as the venue for the conference in 1986; saying that in view of the substantial cost, further consideration would need to be given to the matter. Subsequently, on 13 May 1983, Sir Geoffrey told Sir Peter that because of the General Election the issue could not be pursued but said that the proposal would be considered by Treasury Ministers in the new Government. **A reply is therefore outstanding to Sir Peter's letter of April.**

3. In the context of the 1983 Survey, it has been established that **the estimated cost of the 1986 conference can be found within the Treasury's PES provision** - so no difficulties should arise on this front. **(The CPA have not been told of this)** Therefore the case really needs to be judged on its own merits, having regard to the likely scale of expenditure involved.

4. **As a Joint Treasurer of the UK Branch of the CPA, you will have your own views about the merits of the issue.** However, we

another (ex officio) usually consists of signing the a/cs!

consider that the case for the UK hosting the Conference in 1986, rather than in some later year, does not seem to be a particularly strong one. In his April letter, Sir Peter says that if the 1986 date were missed the next feasible date - because of conventions about alternating between old and new Commonwealth countries, etc - would be 1990. 1986, he says, would be 13 years since the event was last held in Britain (implying that this is rather a long gap). He also says that 1986 will be the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Association, and as one of the Fathers of the Association it would be appropriate for the UK to be host then.

5. No doubt there is some substance in these points. But the fact is that there are 45 member countries of the Commonwealth, and 114 CPA branches (including national, state, territorial and provincial Parliaments). It is therefore not at all clear why the UK should feel any pressure to act as host to the Annual Conference a mere 13 years after the previous occasion.

6. Our advice would therefore be against entering into a commitment of this kind. A draft reply to Sir Peter Mills is attached.



S H WOODALL

~~DRAFT~~ LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR TO:
SIR PETER MILLS MP
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

Please type

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1986

Geoffrey Howe wrote to you on 13 May ^{explaining that why consideration of} ~~saying that~~ your proposal to hold the 1986 CPA Annual Conference in London would ^{have to be deferred until} ~~be considered~~ after the Election.

2. As Geoffrey said in his letter of 20 October, we need to give careful consideration to the need to offer London as the venue for 1986, especially ^{given the estimated cost of} ~~in view of the very substantial cost~~ - which you estimate at just over £1m.

3. I ^{am afraid I am not convinced of the} personally ~~do not see a strong~~ case for our ^{making a bid} ~~having to~~ go for 1986. In view of the number of members of the Association, ^{all every thirteen, or even every seventeen years, is well over our nations!} I do not, ^{therefore} think it would be unreasonable to wait until 1990, or perhaps even later. Of course I understand the argument about 1986 being the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Association, but I ^{do not think this is a} ~~cannot really see that~~ ^{is a sufficiently strong} ~~that is a decisive point,~~ ^{to outweigh the substantial costs of the} Conference.

4. I am sorry that I ^{cannot} ~~do not feel able to~~ be more helpful.

NIGEL LAWSON



FCS/83/156

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

(Handwritten initials)

1/8/83

EXCHEQUER
- 2 AUG 83

Mr P. T. Kayner

Mr Bailey, Mr Pittler,
Mr Unwin, Mr Wilsing

Mr Gilmore, Mr Carey,
Mr Watson, Mr Rowntree, Mr Beckett,
Mr Ridley, Mr Rowes

1. Peter Mills has written to me about the proposal that the 1986 CPA Annual Conference should be held in London. I enclose a copy of my reply.

2. I support this proposal in principle. The CPA provides a series of opportunities for Parliamentarians throughout the Commonwealth to see each other's countries, get to know each other, and exchange views in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. A large number of our own Members have usefully broadened their horizons under its auspices. The Annual Conference, held in a different country each year, is the centrepiece of its activities. The Conference was held in London in 1948, 1961 and 1973; there is now a general expectation that it is again our turn. (Many of the branches are of course much too small to contemplate hosting a Conference themselves). If the UK Branch do not offer to host another Conference within the next few years, this may well be seen as a signal that our commitment to the CPA is declining; this would be regrettable.

3. I understand that the UK Branch estimate that, to run the Conference properly, they would need a special grant of at least £1 million, in addition to their normal grant-in-aid. Peter Mills wrote to me about this when I was still Chancellor before the Election; and I replied that Treasury Ministers would have to look at the matter later in the year. I understand that the UK Branch are now in touch with your officials about details. If you can agree to release additional funds for a Conference in London in 1986 (and you will see that I have sounded a note of caution about cost to Sir P Mills in my reply to him), I will as usual recommend to the Prime Minister that she should issue a formal invitation.



4. Peter hopes that such an invitation could be delivered at this year's Annual Conference in Nairobi (18 September - 2 October). There would be obvious attractions in this timing, particularly since the Prime Minister could also refer to it at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Delhi in November. On the other hand, if you felt you wanted rather longer to consider the matter, the UK Branch tell me that a formal invitation for 1986 need not issue until next year.

5. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Howe', written in a cursive style.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

1 August, 1983



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

From the Secretary of State

2 August, 1983

Dear Peter

Thank you for your letter of 22 July, asking for my support in principle for the CPA Annual Conference to be held in London.

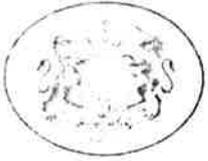
The work of the CPA, in providing opportunities for Parliamentarians throughout the Commonwealth to see each other's countries, get to know each other, and exchange views in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, is much appreciated. I can see that it will soon be time for the UK Branch to offer to host another Conference in London.

I am pursuing the possibilities with my colleagues and hope to let you have a more definite reply before too long. You will of course appreciate that we will have to take a very critical look at the costs involved. The membership of the Commonwealth has increased since the Conference was last held in London, and it may be necessary to look for economies of scale. But as you say, this will be for discussion between you and the Treasury.

I can see that it would be helpful for agreement to be reached in time for an invitation to be issued during the Nairobi Conference. We will certainly have this in mind but time between now and then is getting

/short

Sir Peter Mills, MP



short.

Y —
GWA

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

bcc: Chancellor of the Exchequer



From: P M RAYNER
Date: 9 August 1983

CHANCELLOR

cc: Chief Secretary
Financial Secretary
Economic Secretary
Minister of State
Mr Bailey
Mr Littler
Mr Unwin
Mr Wilding
Mr Gilmore
Mr Carey
Mr Watson
Mr Mountfield
Mr Beastall
Mr Ridley
Mr Rouse

C.
I think to issue,
as amended → YR
LD

[but Mills had written to the
F+CS on 22 July & for you
to have written & recommended
without consulting & it would
have been unfortunate.]

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA): ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1986

Since Mr Kerr's minute of 29 July, the Foreign Secretary has minuted you supporting in principle the proposal of the UK branch of the CPA to host the 1986 Conference in London. This is perhaps not entirely surprising, since the cost is borne on Treasury rather than FCO votes.

2. Our advice remains against agreeing to Sir Peter Mills' proposal. As Mr Woodall pointed out in his minute of 27 July, it is far from clear that it is the UK's turn to host the Conference. But even if it were, we believe the scale and cost of the Conference as proposed is excessive.

3. Following Sir Peter Mills' letter in April, we sought details of the CPA's estimate of just over £1m for the 1986 Conference. We were informed that, at present, the CPA is not in a position to provide comprehensive estimates. We have, however, established that the estimate has been compiled on the basis of 300 delegates being accommodated at the Grosvenor House Hotel (at £100 a day) for the 14 days proposed for the Conference. In addition, although no definite programme has yet been drawn up, we have established that only 6 of the proposed 14 days will be conference session. In view of this, we consider that there are major economies to be made to the CPA's proposal. Sir Geoffrey Howe, when Chancellor, was tending towards the same view. But in

practice, once it is announced that the UK will host the Conference, it will be too late to exert much downward pressure on costs.

4. Given the Foreign Secretary's minute, you cannot now simply turn the proposal down. But you could refuse to finance it on the Treasury vote and suggest that if the Foreign Secretary attaches so much importance to the Conference, he should find the necessary finance within his existing provision. If he declines, it will weaken his position in arguing for the Conference.

.... 5. A draft minute is attached. This submission has been agreed with AEF1 division.



P M RAYNER

A. Lyde.
JLW

DRAFT MINUTE FROM: CHANCELLOR
TO: FOREIGN SECRETARY

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA): ANNUAL
CONFERENCE 1986

Thank you for your minute of 1 August, and for showing me
your letter of 2 August to Peter Hills.

2. I am as anxious as you to see the CPA prosper. But I do not believe that this is necessarily achieved by the UK doing more than its fair share of hosting Conferences. Of course, as you say, many branches are too small to host Conferences by themselves: but a number of major countries ^{and there are others who would love to play host.} are not really pulling their weight. In addition, I must say that I share ^{your previous} ~~the~~ doubts, which you voiced when you were ~~Chancellor,~~ as to whether the scale and expense of the proposed Conference can be justified.

3. In the current public expenditure climate, I am afraid ^{that} I cannot agree to fund the Conference from the Treasury vote. If however you ^{were to} consider it ~~so~~ important that the UK hosts the Conference in 1986, and were prepared to fund it ^{without a new} ~~within your~~ ^{PES bid on that account,} ~~existing PES provision,~~ I would not object ~~—~~ though I would ~~want to be assured that the scale and expense were fully~~ ~~justified.~~

Amendment cleared with the Director

4. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister.

(NIGEL LAWSON)



FCS/83/172

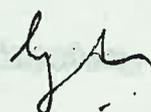
CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA): Annual Conference 1986

EXCHEQUER	
DATE	12 SEP 1983
ACTION	Mr P.M. Rayner
COPIES TO	EST. PST-EST. MST. Mr Briley Mr Kitterler. Mr unwin. Mr Wilding. Mr Gilmore Mr Carter Mr Watson. Mr Mountfield. Mr Deasdale. Mr Ridley. Dr Rouse.

bff with
cdmf

1. Thank you for your minute of 10 August. I enclose a copy of the letter I have now sent to Peter Mills.
2. I would, I am afraid, be impossible for me to fund the Conference from the FCO Vote without a new PES provision. CPA Conferences have traditionally been funded by the Treasury; and I hope that it may at least be possible for you to find the necessary funds to enable the UK Branch to host a Conference in London within the next few years.
3. I am a little puzzled by your references to the UK doing more than its fair share. Since 1948, eighteen member countries of the CPA have hosted the Conference. We, New Zealand and Canada have hosted three times each and the Australians' offer to host in 1988 will put them into the same category. Kenya, India, Malaysia, Jamaica and the Bahamas have hosted twice. Of those which have never hosted, only Zimbabwe is a realistic candidate. Certainly I am not aware of any countries clamouring to take on the task.
4. The fact is that if we do not announce our intention to hold a London Conference within the next few years, there will be a widespread feeling in CPA circles that we are no longer prepared to pull our weight. We shall in the meantime try to take some of the sting out of the inevitable criticism by suggesting that it would not be appropriate to hold a Conference in London too soon after the Isle of Man Conference in 1984.
5. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister.


(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

9 September, 1983



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

From the Secretary of State

12 September 1983

Dear Peter

When I wrote to you on 2 August, I undertook to pursue with my colleagues the possibilities of holding the 1986 CPA Annual Conference in London; and to let you have a more definite reply before too long.

I have now consulted my colleagues. I am afraid that we have concluded very regretfully that, in the current public expenditure climate, the extra funds that would be required are simply not available for a London conference in 1986. I know this will be very disappointing for you and your members. We gave it the most careful and sympathetic thought but simply could not see our way to providing the level of funds required.

I accept that the UK Branch will need to offer to host another Conference in London before long. But 1986 would in any case have been rather close to the 1984 Conference to be held in the Isle of Man. I hope that the financial situation will be easier in the not too distant future.

I am very sorry to have to give you such a disappointing reply. I know how much work you put in to the CPA and the importance you attach to it, which I share. I hope we can do better soon.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Sir Peter Mills MP

Y
Geoffrey Howe

12 SEP 1983

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FCS/84/84

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

*To see Advance
Country.*

*Shall we leave this
one to the Chief
Secretary? or do
you want to write
this one?*

CH/EXCHEQUER	
REG.	15 MAR 1984 ✓ 15 puf
ACTION	Mr. P. M. RAYNER EST. PST. EST. MST
COPIES TO	Sir P. Middleton Mr. Bailey, Mr. Kipker Mr. Lawson, Mr. G. Lynne Mr. Lawelle, Mr. Watson Mr. Mansfield, Mr. Bairstow Mr. Pelly, Mr. Portillo

ofu

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA): Annual Conference
1986

1. In my minute of 9 September 1983 I expressed the hope that it might be possible for you to find the necessary funds to enable the UK Branch of the CPA to host a Conference in London within the next few years.

2. Peter Mills and other CPA representatives called on me in October, to express their anxiety over our refusal to fund the Conference in 1986. In the light of their arguments, I told them I could make no commitment, but would look at the question again, after they had let me have their proposals for reducing the costs of Annual Conferences.

3. I have now received revised estimates from Peter Mills which reduce the grant they are seeking from £1.25 million to £500,000. I attach a copy of his letter, from which you will see that the reduction has been achieved by reducing the number of delegates from 300 to a more realistic 250 and the length of the Conference from 14 to 9 days. They also propose to use less expensive hotels. Peter Mills's letter reflects the strong conviction of the UK Branch of the CPA that the Conference should be held in London in 1986, the 75th anniversary of the founding of the CPA.

4. Ray Whitney led our delegation to the 1983 CPA Conference in Nairobi and has since told me that in his view the CPA could be put in serious jeopardy if we refused to hold the 1986 Conference.

/5. I think



5. I think we are agreed that the CPA is a very useful institution which could serve British interests still better. Hosting the 1986 Conference would give us an excellent opportunity to move it in the direction we wish.

6. You thought the UK was doing more than its fair share of hosting CPA Conferences. I have looked again closely at the history, and do not believe that this is in fact the case. Moreover, the CPA has made a determined effort to cut costs, and I am sure that we can expect strong party pressure on us to agree to host this Conference. I therefore hope that you can agree that a grant of £500,000 can be found as usual from Treasury resources for this purpose.

7. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister.

GEOFFREY HOWE

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
15 March, 1984

FROM: SIR PETER MILLS, MP

Telegrams: "EMPARASSO, LONDON-SW1"
Phone: 01-219 5373



UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

5th March, 1984

Further to my letter dated 21st February, I now understand from Tony Durant, who recently attended a CPA Meeting in New Delhi, that it is unlikely that the UK Branch will receive a subvention from the Headquarters towards the cost of the Conference. It seems that the view of the CPA is that a subvention should only be offered to less affluent countries to enable them to meet the expense of holding the Conference.

You will remember that £80,000 had been taken off the total estimate of the cost of Conference on the understanding that this sum would be provided by the CPA Headquarters. As it now seems unlikely that any subvention will be forthcoming, I am writing to ask if you will agree to the estimate being raised from £420,000 to £500,000.* In my letter I suggested that £500,000 be granted rather than the estimated cost of £420,000 "to allow for unforeseeable costs". It seems that the additional cost has already arisen.

I assure you that every effort will be made to reduce the overall cost of the Conference. Commonwealth delegates will be warmly welcomed and there can be no doubt that a successful Conference will help enormously in strengthening the bonds of friendship which exist between Commonwealth Members together and make this unique institution into a force for good in the world. However, no unnecessary expense will be incurred and it is possible that substantial savings will be made in the final analysis.

I very much hope that you will be able to recommend to the Treasury that funds should be made available for this important Conference.

Yours sincerely,

(Deputy Chairman)

① Act
② CCD for dt reply fu
s/s by 14/3
cc PS
PS / Lady Yang
PS / Rus
Chief Clerk
Sir J Leahy
Mr Squire 7/3

* Still way below the original figure!

Rt Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP,
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
King Charles Street,
LONDON SW1.

From S H Woodall
22 March 1984

1. MR RAYNER
2. CHANCELLOR

hR 22/3

*9 minutes to issue?
B.*

Copies attached for:

Chief Secretary	Mr Anson
Financial Secretary	Mr Gilmore
Economic Secretary	Mr Lavelle
Minister of State	Mr Watson
Sir P Middleton	Mr Mountfield
Mr Bailey	Mr Beastall
Mr Littler	Mr Ridley
Mr Unwin	Mr Portillo

OK

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA): ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1986

In his minute of 15 March the Foreign Secretary seeks your agreement to a grant of £500,000 being made to the CPA from the Treasury to fund their 1986 Conference which they propose to hold in London.

2. You will recall that you minuted the Foreign Secretary on 10 August 1983 saying that you shared his doubts about the scale and expense of the proposed Conference. It appears that these doubts were justified in that the CPA have now submitted a revised estimate of £500,000 which is less than half the original figure. However, even with this reduced figure, sufficient offsetting savings cannot be found within the current Treasury PES programme and therefore, if the cost is to be borne by the Treasury, additional bids will be necessary in next year's Survey for increased provision in 1985-86 and 1986-87.

3. As joint Treasurer of the UK Branch of the CPA, you will have your own views about the merits of the issue. However, we are still not convinced that the case for the UK hosting the Conference in 1986, rather than in some later year, is a particularly strong one. But you may wish to consider this against the Foreign Secretary's view that strong party pressure to agree to the UK hosting this Conference can be expected.

CONFIDENTIAL

4. Given the Foreign Secretary's support for the proposal you may wish to ask him to reconsider the possibility of finding the necessary finance within his existing provision. Although, in his minute of 9 September, the Foreign Secretary said that "it would be impossible to fund the Conference from the FCO Vote without a new PES provision", he may be prepared to reconsider the position given the significant reduction in the CPA's estimated costs.

5. A draft minute is attached.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S H Woodall', written in dark ink.

S H WOODALL

PL type
23/3

~~DRAFT~~ MINUTE FROM: CHANCELLOR
TO: FOREIGN SECRETARY

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA):
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1986

You minuted me about this on 15 March, enclosing a copy of Peter Mills' letter 6 yrs of 5 March.
~~Thank you for your minute of 15 March, and for showing me a copy of Peter Mills' letter of 5 March.~~

I note that the

~~[I am pleased to see that the] CPA have managed to reduce the expected costs of the Conference by over 50 per cent. [This does, of course, justify our earlier doubts about the scale and expense of their original estimate.]~~

I am afraid, however, that

~~[As I said in my minute of 10 August, in the current public expenditure climate,] I am afraid that ^{it} would ^{still} be ^{unable} impossible ^{to} meet the revised costs of the Conference within the existing Treasury ^{PES} programme.~~

Now, in the current public expenditure climate, would I feel justified in making additional bids for this purpose.

~~significant reduction (achieved) by the CPA and the importance which you attach ^{importance} to the UK hosting the Conference in 1986, (you may) ^{In view of these two facts, you might perhaps} wish to reconsider the possibility of funding the Conference within your ^{own} existing PES provision.~~

A copy of this
~~[I am copying this] minute ^{goes} to the Prime Minister.~~



CH/EXCHEQUER	
REC.	16 APR 1984 16/4
ACTION	MR RAYNER
COPIES TO	CST, EST, EST, MST
	SIR P. MIDDLETON
	MR BAILEY MR LITTLE
	MR URWIN MR ANISON

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 April 1984

Dear John,

MR LAVELLE MR CILMORE
 MR MOUNTFIELD MR WATSON
 MR RIDLEY MR BATTISHILL
 MR WOODALL MR PORTILLO

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: Annual Conference 1986

Sir Geoffrey Howe and the Chancellor have exchanged minutes about the proposal that the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association should host the 1986 CPA Conference in this country. The correspondence rests with the Chancellor's minute of 23 March (copied to the Prime Minister) which suggests that the FCO should find the cost of the 1986 Conference (£0.5m) from within our existing PES provision. Sir Geoffrey would like to have a word with the Prime Minister about this problem. I am, therefore, writing in advance to let you have the background.

The funding of the CPA, and other inter-parliamentary associations has always, according to our records, been a Treasury responsibility. This reflects the fact that these associations have never been seen as an arm of British foreign policy but rather as an extension of the role of the "mother of Parliaments". The Chancellor is ex officio an Honorary Treasurer of the UK Branch of the CPA (the Prime Minister likewise is ex officio chairman of its Executive Committee).

The question of hosting the 1986 Conference in this country first arose in 1982, when the then Minister for Overseas Development (Sir Neil Marten) seems to have indicated at the Bahamas Conference that the UK Branch had hoped to be able to act as host in 1986. At that stage there had been no consideration of official funding, and Mr Ray Whitney made clear at the following year's conference in Nairobi that no express commitment had been given. But the fact remains that there is a widespread expectation in the CPA that the UK will host the 1986 conference.

Sir Geoffrey has been in correspondence with Sir Peter Mills MP on this question since his time as Chancellor, when the matter was regarded - as in the past - as a Treasury responsibility. (The correspondence should strictly have been redirected towards Mr Lawson when he took over as Chancellor.)

/Sir Geoffrey



Sir Geoffrey entirely understands the Chancellor's wish to keep costs to a minimum. Last summer, after consulting the Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey wrote to tell Sir Peter Mills that HMG could not provide the costs of the 1986 Conference for which they put in a bid for £1.25m: this was calculated partly on the basis of an indexation of the grant provided in 1973. A delegation from the UK Branch of the CPA called on Sir Geoffrey in October to express their anxiety about our refusal to make funds available. At Sir Geoffrey's prompting they have since made major efforts to reduce the cost and have now put forward revised proposals for a shorter and smaller conference costing £0.5m (this is less in real terms than the grant of £150,000 they received in 1973).

The CPA has strong all-party support in Parliament. Sir Geoffrey is in no doubt that if we maintained our refusal to fund the 1986 Conference despite the UK Branch's determined efforts to cut costs there would be a major parliamentary row. I enclose a letter to Lady Young from Mr Mark Carlisle MP which gives a foretaste of the criticism which would be levelled at the Government.

For all these reasons Sir Geoffrey believes that we should enable the UK Branch to host the 1986 Conference. He considers that it could do serious damage to the CAP - and to the Government - if the UK Branch were to back out at this stage. We are not, however, able to find £0.5m from our existing PES allocation for this purpose. Quite apart from that, the funding of inter-parliamentary associations has never been an FCO responsibility and Sir Geoffrey believes that the responsibility should continue to rest with the Treasury to provide the funds in this case, on which a decision is now needed quickly.

The whole question of funding inter-parliamentary associations may need to be looked at afresh thereafter. One possibility might be to transfer them to the votes of Parliament. But the priority is to resolve the immediate problem of funding the 1986 Conference.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

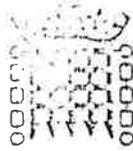
HC 022/97

REGISTRY NO 12

30 MAR 1984

REGISTRY	
PA	Action Time

PERSONAL



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

20th March, 1984.

for direct reply
please (11)

cc. Private Secretary
Mr. A. L. ...
...
Mr. Squire
Private Secy.
Mr. ...
Mr. ...

Dear Janet.

I am very concerned over what is happening about the holding of the 1986 CPA Conference in London. I gather that there is a serious intention by the Government to say that they are now unwilling to have this Conference.

I just want you to know, in my capacity of Treasurer to the CPA, that I think that any such decision would be a total disaster, and I cannot believe that Ministers can have applied their minds to it with any seriousness.

I was present in the Bahamas in 1982 when Neil Marten issued the invitation, as a then member of the Government and Minister in the Foreign Office, and it is of course recorded in the Minutes of the CPA and in the Minutes of the Executive. For the UK now to renege on that invitation would, I believe, do untold harm to the CPA.

Is it seriously being suggested that I as Treasurer, together with Sir Robin Vanderfelt, should now approach some country like Sri Lanka and say that unfortunately the UK does not feel it can afford to hold the Conference - and "perhaps you would like to have it in your country instead?" I fear that any decision to renege on the invitation would only be taken by critics as the expression of lack of interest in the Commonwealth by this Government, and when it is learned that such a decision is based on economic grounds, it will look frankly laughable and incredible when compared to the economic situations of other Commonwealth countries.

I do not believe it is putting too strong a point of view to say that Britain's withdrawing from holding the 1986 Conference could well mean there would not be a Conference in that year, and could possibly see an end to CPA Conferences on an annual basis.

I am writing this to you personally since at the moment it is being taken up with Geoffrey Howe by Peter Mills, as Chairman of the UK Branch, But I do not want you or Geoffrey in any way to under estimate what I believe would be the seriousness of an adverse decision.

With kind regards, and hoping you are not being kept too busy.

Yours ever
Mark.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

CH/EXCHEQUER	
REC.	16 APR 1984
ACTION	Mr Rayner.
COPIES TO	CST. PST. EST. MST. Sir P. Middleton Mr Bailey, Mr Linder. Mr Lawin, Mr Arson.

16/4 (p)

16 April, 1984 Mr Gilmore.
Mr Kavelle. Mr Watson.
Mr Mountfield. Mr Beestall.
Mr Ridley. Mr Portillo.
Mr Woodall.

*Very hard
to read. But
is a major
document.*

*As you will see from the date -
shown below, we had no
opportunity to comment ourselves
to do so about this. In fact, I
doubt if it was ever copied to us.*

B.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL
CONFERENCE 1986

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 11 April and has also seen the minute to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, dated 23 March.

Mrs. Thatcher hopes that the Chancellor will agree to provide the £0.5 million required to finance the CPA Conference, particularly since the precedents suggest that it has been a Treasury responsibility in the past to provide the necessary financing. The Prime Minister does not consider that the sum in question is worth a lengthy controversy in Whitehall.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Peretz (HM Treasury).

P. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

C
The FCO letter of 11 April clearly was not copied to us until today. XI below suggests the F. Secretary did worse than at his bilateral with the PM on 13 April, & this letter is the result (Pretty disgraceful behaviour).
DWP

FROM: SIR PETER MILLS, MP

REF: "EMPARLIASSO, LONDON-SW1"
: 01-219 5373



WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

5th March, 1984

Further to my letter dated 21st February, I now understand from Tony Durant, who recently attended a CPA Meeting in New Delhi, that it is unlikely that the UK Branch will receive a subvention from the Headquarters towards the cost of the Conference. It seems that the view of the CPA is that a subvention should only be offered to less affluent countries to enable them to meet the expense of holding the Conference.

You will remember that £80,000 had been taken off the total estimate of the cost of Conference on the understanding that this sum would be provided by the CPA Headquarters. As it now seems unlikely that any subvention will be forthcoming, I am writing to ask if you will agree to the estimate being raised from £420,000 to £500,000.* In my letter I suggested that £500,000 be granted rather than the estimated cost of £420,000 "to allow for unforeseeable costs". It seems that the additional cost has already arisen.

I assure you that every effort will be made to reduce the overall cost of the Conference. Commonwealth delegates will be warmly welcomed and there can be no doubt that a successful Conference will help enormously in strengthening the bonds of friendship which exist between Commonwealth Members together and make this unique institution into a force for good in the world. However, no unnecessary expense will be incurred and it is possible that substantial savings will be made in the final analysis.

I very much hope that you will be able to recommend to the Treasury that funds should be made available for this important Conference.

Yours sincerely,

(Deputy Chairman)

① Act
② CCs for diff reply for
s/s by 14/3
cc PS
PS/Lady Yang
PS/Rus
Chief Clerk
Sir J Leahy
Mr Squire 17/3

* Still way below the original figure!

Rt Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP,
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
King Charles Street,
LONDON SW1.

423/x

This minute was withdrawn.
PWP

prop ~~prop~~ 6/11
3/11 Mary

From: S H WOODALL
Date: 26 April 1984

(PWP)

hr 27/4

- 1. MR RAYNER
- 2. PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY

Copies attached for:

- PS/Chief Secretary
- PS/Financial Secretary
- PS/Economic Secretary
- PS/Minister of State
- Sir P Middleton
- Mr Bailey
- Mr Littler
- Mr Unwin
- Mr Anson
- Mr Gilmore
- Mr Lavelle
- Mr Watson o/r
- Mr Mountfield
- Mr Beastall
- Mr Ridley
- Mr Portillo

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA): ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1986

In his letter of 16 April, Mr Coles records the Prime Minister's view that she hopes the Chancellor will agree to provide the £0.5 million required to finance the CPA Conference.

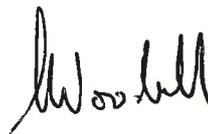
2. As explained in my minute of 22 March, even though the CPA have halved their original estimate of the cost of the Conference, sufficient offsetting savings cannot be found within the current Treasury PES programme and therefore, if the cost is to be borne by the Treasury, additional bids will be necessary in the 1984 Survey for increased provision in 1986-87 and possibly in 1985-86.

3. Before agreement is given to any additional provision, the Chancellor will wish to be assured that the scale of expenditure now proposed can be justified. However, we have yet to see any details of the CPA's revised proposals and therefore will not be in a position to consider these fully until we receive comprehensive estimates. For example, we do not know whether

the estimated figure of £0.5 million is at current prices or in cash nor do we know how expenditure will fall between 1985-86 and 1986-87.

4. As explained in Mr Ricketts' letter of 11 March to Mr Coles, the Foreign Secretary has been in correspondence with Sir Peter Mills on the question of the Conference - not, I should add, at our insistence. Given that the Foreign Secretary is satisfied with the CPA's revised estimate we assume that he already has the necessary information.

5. I therefore recommend that you write to Mr Ricketts asking him to provide this information so that we can advise the Chancellor accordingly. A draft letter is attached.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S H Woodall', with a stylized, cursive script.

S H WOODALL

DRAFT LETTER FROM: PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO: PS/FOREIGN SECRETARY

**COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL CONFERENCE
1986**

I have seen a copy of your letter of 11 April to John Coles and his reply of 16 April ^{given} (in which he sets out) the Prime Minister's views on the financing of the CPA's Conference.

In advising the Chancellor on the possibility of financing this Conference we will, of course, need to be satisfied that the revised estimate submitted by the CPA can be justified. However, we have not yet seen any detailed costings from the CPA. For example, we do not know whether the proposed figure of £0.5 million is at current prices or in cash nor do we know how expenditure will fall between 1985-86 and 1986-87.

Given that the Foreign Secretary has been in correspondence with Sir Peter Mills MP, I assume that you already have the necessary detailed information. It would therefore be helpful if you could let me have sight of the CPA's detailed costings so that we can advise the Chancellor accordingly.

I am copying this letter to John Coles.

From S H Woodall

Date 3 May 1984

- 1. MR WATSON *W.H. Selous*
- 2. CHANCELLOR *L.S.*

*OK, see 2nd an
 PLS letter as
 suggested
 W.H. Selous*

Copies attached for:

- Chief Secretary
- Financial Secretary
- Economic Secretary
- Minister of State
- Sir P Middleton
- Mr Bailey
- Mr Littler
- Mr Unwin
- Mr Anson
- Mr Gilmore
- Mr Lavelle
- Mr Mountfield
- Mr Rayner o/r
- Mr Beastall
- Mr Ridley
- Mr Portillo

*C/ You will recall the FCO bounced us
 into this.
 letters to issue?
 You have not seen either of the
 letters from Sir P Mills or Mr
 Cuthbert.*

*C
 Not a happy story.
 But this looks likely
 the only possible outcome now.
 W.H. Selous*

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA): ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1986

In his letter of 26 April, Sir Peter Mills seeks your agreement to holding the CPA's Annual Conference in London in 1986. Advice on his letter has been delayed because officials have only recently received the CPA's detailed costings of the proposal.

Background

2. You will recall that you have considered the CPA's proposals on two previous occasions and that you last wrote to the Foreign Secretary on 23 March saying that provision could not be found in the Treasury's PES programme but given the Foreign Secretary's support for the proposal, he might wish to reconsider the possibility of funding the Conference within his existing PES provision. Following your minute, the Prime Minister commented that she hoped "the Chancellor will agree to ... finance the CPA Conference". She added that the sum in question was not

"worth a lengthy controversy in Whitehall" (Mr Coles' letter of 16 April attached).

PES Provision

4. As explained in my minute of 22 March, even though the CPA have more than halved their original estimate (from £1.125m to £0.5m), sufficient offsetting savings cannot be found within the current Treasury PES programme. The Chief Secretary will therefore wish to note that if the revised cost is to be borne by the Treasury, additional bids will be necessary in the 1984 Survey for increased provision in 1986-87 and possibly in 1985-86. You will recall that in the 1983 Survey an additional bid of £1.125m was included in respect of the Conference but, following your decision in August 1983 that the Treasury should not fund it, the additional bid was struck out.

Current Proposals

5. We have now received the CPA's revised estimate for the cost of the 1986 Conference. Overall the estimate is a considerable improvement on their earlier attempt. The Conference has been reduced from 14 to 9 days and the number of delegates from 300 to 250. In addition, the CPA have agreed that delegates can be accommodated in slightly lower price hotels. Consideration has also been given to the possibility of holding the Conference in the provinces; the CPA have concluded that this would be inappropriate for such a gathering.

6. As a result of questioning the original scale and expense of the Conference, we have achieved a major reduction in the CPA's proposals but I consider it unlikely that any further significant reductions can be made to the current proposals. However, officials may wish to consider these revised estimates with CPA officials in more detail nearer the time of the Conference - perhaps during the Estimate scrutiny - in order to establish whether any additional economies can be made.

7. In considering the CPA's proposals, you will wish to bear in mind the Foreign Secretary's view that strong party pressure to agree to the UK hosting the Conference can be expected (his

SEE eg.
Mr Coles' personal
letter
below.

minute of 15 March attached). In this context, you will wish to be aware that Mr Mark Carlisle MP (as Treasurer of the CPA) has written to Lady Young pointing out that Mr Neil Marten MP (then a Foreign Office Minister) issued an invitation at the CPA's 1982 Conference in the Bahamas about the UK hosting the 1986 Conference and that the invitation is recorded in the Minutes of the CPA.

8. The background to this is that on 14 October 1982, Sir Peter Mills wrote to the then Chancellor informing him that Mr Marten wished to offer such an invitation. In his reply, Sir Geoffrey Howe made clear that this would be awkward since consideration of expenditure in 1986 was some way off and suggested that further consideration would need to be given to the question on Mr Marten's return from the 1982 Conference. In addition, officials were informed by the CPA that Mr Marten had decided to pursue the question of the 1986 Conference on his return from the Bahamas. In view of this, we were not aware that any invitation had been given. However, I consider that it would be somewhat unproductive to raise this matter now given that the offer was made.

Future Funding

9. The question of the future funding arrangements of all inter-parliamentary associations has also been raised in official correspondence on the CPA's Conference. Consideration will need to be given to this once a decision has been reached on the immediate problem and officials hope to make a further submission on this shortly.

Recommendation

10. As joint Treasurer of the UK Branch of the CPA, you will have your own views about the merits of the UK hosting the 1986 Conference. However, on balance, I recommend that you agree to the Treasury financing the Conference at a cost of

Surely we should try to shift it to the **FO?**
MP

up to £0.5m and I attach a draft reply to Sir Peter Mills. You may also wish to inform the Foreign Secretary of your decision and a draft minute is also attached.



S H WOODALL

I agree with this. The argument has been
worthwhile since we have saved over £500,000,
but I believe the time has come to agree
graciously. L³ 75

DRAFT MINUTE FROM CHANCELLOR
TO FOREIGN SECRETARY

Letter 18/5/84
~~to Andrew Turnbull~~
to: Len Appleyard, FCO
from JLC Peretz

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA): ANNUAL
CONFERENCE 1986

The Chancellor has

John Gles's

I have seen a copy of the Prime Minister's Private Secretary's letter of 16 April in which he sets out the Prime Minister's views on the financing of the CPA's Conference.

Treasury

2. ~~My~~ officials have recently received the details of the CPA's revised estimate of £0.5m and it is clear that our doubts on the original scale and expense of the proposed Conference were fully justified.

The Chancellor is

3. Having seen the CPA's revised estimate, I am prepared to agree to the Treasury funding the 1986 Conference up to a maximum of £0.5m. He has written to Sir Peter Mills accordingly and a copy of my letter is attached.

4. I am copying this minute to the PM. ~~Prime Minister~~

John Gles at No 10.

Might be better as a PS letter? (If so, I will change it at work) JLC

✓ 8/5 P1 type
+ other letters
below.

~~DRAFT~~ LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR TO:

Sir Peter Mills MP
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Westminster Hall
Houses of Parliament
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Handwritten signature

CPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LONDON

Thank you for your letter of 26 April.

2. I understand that you have reconsidered² your original estimate of £1,125,000 for the 1986 Conference and have been able to reduce its overall cost to a maximum of £500,000. On this basis I am prepared to agree to the Treasury funding the cost of the Conference within this maximum.

3. I note that you will make every effort to reduce the overall cost and that further savings may be possible once final costings have been prepared. No doubt your officials will be in touch with mine about the details in due course.

[See Sir P
Mills letter
of 5/3 85
to 4/11.]

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR

✓ 8/5

TO THE RT HON MARK CARLISLE QC MP
HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thank you for your letter of 28 April about the CPA Conference. As you will see from the attached copy of my letter to Peter Mills, I have now been able to agree that the CPA conference in 1986 should be held in London, and that Treasury funding up to a maximum of £500,000 will be available.

I hope you will consider that this is a satisfactory outcome.

