



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 December 1979

*Dear Michael,*

*to Paul*

Briefing for Prime Minister's Visit  
to Washington, 17-19 December  
Credits for Cuba

I wrote to you on 19 November about the US proposal that we, among other OECD countries, should discourage official and commercial guarantees and credits for Cuba. Since then, we have received the Bank of England's considered views on the American proposal and Mr Ridley has formally conveyed these to the Minister of the American Embassy, who called on 13 December.

Mr Ridley said that, while the Government had considerable political sympathy with the American wish to make it clear that Cuban and Soviet adventures overseas could not continue without incurring an economic penalty, there were serious difficulties on the financial, commercial and political fronts. He asked for information on the responses received from those other countries approached by the Americans. Mr Ridley said that, in the light of this information, we would be prepared to consider the matter further; but he stressed that the likelihood of our being able to respond positively to the American proposal was not high.

The Minister of State made it clear that his purpose was to let the Americans know where we had got to on their proposal before the Prime Minister's visit to Washington.

We have proposed separately that Brief No PMVY(79)8E should be amended to take account of this exchange.

*yours as*  
*Roderic Lyne*

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Private Secretary

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