



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER'S

THE PRIME MINISTER

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T123c/795

cc FCO  
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cc Mr Meltzer, US  
Embassy

18 October, 1979.

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your message of 4 October which Ambassador Brewster passed to me about support for the work of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research.

I do indeed recall the Tokyo decision to intensify our efforts to overcome hunger in the developing countries and I confirm the importance I attach to research on an international co-operative basis as a contribution to this end. The work of CGIAR has played a significant part in raising food production and it has had strong support from this country from the start.

Our support will continue taking into account both the general limitations imposed by our economic circumstances on the scale of our aid programme and the strains that rapid expansion of the CGIAR system would put upon its management structure.

Warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD) MT

The President of the United States of America



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 October 1979

*Dear Michael*

Mike Pattison wrote on 4 October enclosing a letter from the US Ambassador to the Prime Minister conveying a message from President Carter about financial support for the work of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

I enclose a draft reply which the Prime Minister may wish to send.


The CGIAR consists primarily of aid donor countries and organisations. It funds and guides the activities of 12 international agricultural research centres with the object of increasing food production in the developing world. The Group was established in 1971, under the co-sponsorship of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the United Nations Development Programme when it assumed financial responsibility for the four original centres launched by the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations (which remain among the contributors). The UK and the US were both founder members of the Group, which has grown rapidly to its present size. It has a total budget in 1979 of \$US104 million. The UK contribution in 1979 is £3 million - about 6% of the total. The US has traditionally contributed 25% of total requirements.

The work of the research centres funded by the CGIAR has achieved important successes in raising the yield potential of some of the world's major crops including rice, wheat and maize and the Consultative Group itself has been an economical mechanism for attracting funds and of guiding and coordinating the work of the research centres. However, this mechanism was established at the inception of the Group to meet the needs of a fairly modest organisation and we believe it could benefit from some revision before the present rate of expansion can be accelerated with confidence. It also needs to do more to help developing countries' own research organisations to adapt the work of the centres to local needs; this is in hand and we think has the highest priority in any expansion.

When the Consultative Group meets in Washington at the end of October we do not expect to be able to increase the UK pledge in real terms, or to make a firm commitment to a five-year plan. Continued success is not simply a matter of money, but more funds could certainly be beneficially employed, and we would not wish to discourage other donors from playing a bigger part.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

*Yours etc*  
*Paul*  
 (P Lever)



DRAFT LETTER FOR SIGNATURE BY THE PRIME MINISTER

ADDRESSED:            President Carter

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*Ant*



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MR. ALEXANDER (o.r.)

I have acknowledged Ambassador Brewster's letter of 4 October, enclosing a message from President Carter seeking increased support for the International Agricultural Research System.

This seems to be a round robin, and I have sent it to FCO asking for a draft reply to reach you by 12 October. Perhaps no need for the Prime Minister to see it until there is a draft reply?

*MAP*

4 October 1979