



10 DOWNING STREET

15 April 1980

THE PRIME MINISTER

18
Dear Mr. Steel,

Thank you for your letter of 27 March about the amount of financial aid payable to Opposition Parties.

As you say, we are at present considering a request from the official Opposition for a rise in the amount of aid payable under this scheme. Discussions are still taking place. We have not yet reached conclusions, but I hope we shall be able to do so fairly quickly.

It would, of course, be possible to increase the amounts payable without necessarily altering the structure of the present formula. As you know, this was what was done in February 1978, when the then existing levels, including the maximum, were increased all round by 10 per cent. I have, however, noted your concern that any review of the general formula should not preclude or delay consideration of the case for some uprating under the present arrangements.

Yours sincerely,
Raymond Hunter

The Rt. Hon. David Steel, M.P.

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