



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 June 1979

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My dear Secretary-General,

I am writing in reply to your letter of 22 March about the agenda for the 1979 Heads of Government Meeting.

I note that you suggest keeping the customary pattern for the meeting, thus enabling us to discuss both global political and economic issues and also specific topics, including Commonwealth functional co-operation. In adopting this approach, however, I believe it will be important for us to discipline ourselves in the amount of time we spend on any one particular subject.

Economic matters will be of great concern to us all, and I expect there will be a general discussion and a review of the global economic situation and prospects. We shall want to consider the state of the relationship between the developed and developing countries. But I believe that the most useful approach would be for Heads of Government to aim to transcend artificial divisions such as "North/South", and to address ourselves to common economic problems in a global setting, rather than to repeat the detailed discussion of specific questions, such as the Common Fund or IMF conditionality, which will recently have taken place at UNCTAD and elsewhere.

Under the economic heading we may wish to exchange views briefly about the new Lomé Convention; Heads of Government will wish to consider the proposals put forward at the Bangalore Conference with a view to deciding whether and how to put them into effect.

/With regard

With regard to relationships between the official and unofficial Commonwealth, I hope that Heads of Government will have time to focus again on the very valuable work of the Commonwealth Foundation, and that member states will be encouraged to fulfil, or even increase, their contributions.

I am glad that you intend to make greater use of restricted sessions at the Conference. I also hope that we shall all be able to do without lengthy prepared statements which detract from the "informality and purposefulness" which, as you mention, Heads of Government are concerned to retain.

I look forward to discussing these matters further with you when we meet on 18 June.

Yours sincerely  
Rajiv Gandhi

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His Excellency Mr. Shridath S. Ramphal, Kt, CMG, QC.

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Prime Minister

I have amended  
this Draft to take  
account of your  
comments. You have  
agreed to see Mr.  
Ransford on 18 June.

Owen  
8/6

~ My dear Secretary-General