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Prime Minister

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OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
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Mr Marten intends to lay an order on Monday about IDA 6. This is not for a bridging operation, but simply to enable us to pay our share in September of the U.S. unblock whilst the House is in Recess.
10 July 1981

From the Minister

Dear Mike,

You will wish to be aware that we are proposing, with the Treasury's agreement, to seek Parliamentary approval before the Summer Recess for a draft Order to clear up a legislative anomaly relating to our participation in IDA 6. I am told that the Order needs to be laid by Monday afternoon (13 July) at the latest.

The point at issue is that our formal notification given to the IDA a year ago rests on a draft Order approved by Parliament on 17 June 1980, which our Legal Advisers consider should be replaced by a fresh Order because of the implications of subsequent legislation. The documents have been prepared but it was thought advisable to await authorisation of US participation by Congress, on which the coming into effect of IDA 6 depends, before putting the matter to Parliament. The US position is still unclear, but with the possibility that it might be resolved during our Parliamentary recess we propose to go to Parliament now so as to avoid any risk that the legislative backing for our own participation might be questioned and the effectiveness of IDA 6 delayed on our account. It is particularly important for us to avoid any such risk in view of the forthcoming round of international meetings including those in which the Prime Minister will be participating, and of the recent EC démarche to the US on the IDA 6 question, in which our role as the Presidency gave us a prominent position.

This order would not enable us to make any further contribution to IDA 6 in advance of US agreement which will bring the replenishment into effect. We have agreed with the Treasury that Mr Marten will be briefed to avoid any reference to any wider questions relating to the IDA, and to emphasise that the matter is purely a technicality.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Roderic Lyne.

(Miss S E Unsworth)
Private Secretary

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