



(2)

PM/81/38

PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister

To write

P. M.
29/7

ms

Relations with Developing Countries

1. I have read with interest Sir Robert Armstrong's minute to you of 14 July, which refers to certain policy options we may want to consider regarding our relations with developing countries. I have noted, from their minutes of 16 and 22 July, that Geoffrey Howe and John Biffen are reluctant to see any change in our present policies.

2. I think it is useful that Sir Robert Armstrong has set out these options for us at this stage, in addition to circulating the report from DCO. As he says, discussions are not required immediately. But we shall need to consider, very soon after the Summer holidays, whether existing policies will prove sufficient for you when you go to the Melbourne and Cancun meetings in late September and October, or whether some changes are needed. I shall be able to judge the approach of the other Cancun participants at the preparatory meeting at the end of this week. Meanwhile, the Ottawa Summit provided useful clues on the attitude of our closest partners; and last week's Commons debate showed that the Government's position is still under some criticism here at home. After my return from the Cancun meeting, I may therefore wish to return to this subject.

/3.

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3. I am copying this minute to Geoffrey Howe, Keith Joseph, John Biffen, David Howell, Peter Walker and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C' with a horizontal line underneath.

(CARRINGTON)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
28 July 1981

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