



File 1/B

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 August 1981

Dear Michael

I wrote to Peter Jenkins this morning about the draft Melbourne Declaration put forward by the Australian Prime Minister.

I understand that the Treasury, in consultation with you, are now preparing a draft letter for the Prime Minister to consider sending to Mr. Fraser. The Prime Minister has also asked for some detailed information about Australia's own contribution to the third world. I think that she wants to be armed with this primarily for the Melbourne discussions themselves, but it would be helpful if such material as is readily available could be with us by Wednesday evening, when she will be considering the draft letter to Mr. Fraser.

She has asked in particular for Australia's record in terms of subscriptions to the World Bank Group and to IMF facilities expressed in actual terms and as a proportion of GDP compared with our own contributions. She would also like details of the Australian record on bilateral aid. (On both the above points, she is primarily interested in Mr. Fraser's period of office.) She has also asked what tariffs have been lowered and what tariffs increased since Mr. Fraser came to office. She asks whether we have any information on additional aid measures or additional trade measures which Mr. Fraser might have in mind for Australia to implement to back up the assertions in the draft Declaration.

As wider background, the Prime Minister would like to see some figures on total world flows of concessional finance at present. She has asked what proportion these flows bear to the present deficits of the developing countries as a whole, and the group of countries generally defined as least developed. She would also like to see set out the proportion these flows bear to the increased oil costs which the non-oil exporting developing countries had to meet in the past two years.

I am copying this letter to Peter Jenkins (H.M. Treasury), John Rhodes (Department of Trade) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Mike Pattison
CONFIDENTIAL

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Lord Privy Seal's Office.

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