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DOMINICA: BANANA:

JULY 83



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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

9 August 1983

My dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 11 July about the possibility of our meeting in London with the other Windward Island Prime Ministers to discuss the problems facing the banana industry in the Islands.

I do assure you that we are very conscious of the efforts made by the Governments of the Windwards and the industry itself to overcome the difficulties. We attach much importance to the financial and technical assistance we continue to give to it and I am glad to hear that this support has made a major contribution to the recent improvement in production.

I fully understand the concern of you and your colleagues about the judicial review in the English Courts of the British licensing system governing the importation of bananas. While I would, of course, be happy to meet you and your colleagues at a mutually convenient time, I believe that rather than meeting in August, which would be very difficult for me, it would be more productive to defer this until at least September. By then we would expect to be in a position to let you and your colleagues know more clearly how we propose to proceed. I understand from our High Commission in Bridgetown that this would be acceptable to you. If for any reason the timetable were to slip, the meeting could take place at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Delhi. Alternatively, and perhaps more conveniently, a meeting could be held in London if you and your colleagues were passing through here on the way to Delhi.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

The Honourable Eugenia Charles