

OPS cc MASTER

SUBJECT: LIBERIA: Int Sit
April '80



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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 October 1983

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 144 /83**

Excellency

Thank you for your letter of 5 August inviting the Government of the United Kingdom to attend the UNDP-Sponsored Round Table Meeting on Liberia to be held in Geneva on 24/27 October. I am sorry that you have not received a reply before but your letter was forwarded from the UNDP Office in New York and took a considerable time to arrive.

The United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations in Geneva will represent the United Kingdom on this occasion and we shall look forward to receiving their report on the meeting. I must add however that Britain's bilateral aid resources are under great pressure at present, largely as a result of our very heavy and increasing commitment to the multilateral agencies such as the EDF, UNDP and the World Bank, through whom we have played and shall continue to play our full part. I should be misleading you if I were to hold out hope that we would increase bilateral programmes beyond existing levels and I am afraid therefore that we shall not be able to respond at the Round Table Meeting in the way you might have wished.

However, our current activities will I trust remain constructive and helpful to Liberia. I was very glad in particular that in addition to the normal programme of training and technical assistance we have been able to offer the services of Sir John Boynton to advise your Government on constitutional procedures for the return to civilian government in April 1985, and also to contribute medical supplies following the mining disaster in October last year.

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I wish the meeting every success and hope that the outcome will be constructive and informative for all participants.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Commander-in-Chief Samuel K. Doe