

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 182^{AA}/84

MASXK
OPS

DISASTERS, ETHIOPIA: Oct 84.

ADMIN FILED

UNCLASSIFIED

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OO DUBLIN

GRS 195

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FM PCO 251530Z OCT 1984

TO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 292 OF 25 OCT 84

MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO DR FITZGERALD

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO DR FITZGERALD.

BEGINS: YOU WILL HAVE READ AND SEEN REPORTS OF THE TERRIBLE FAMINE IN ETHIOPIA.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT IN SPITE OF PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES ON THE SPOT MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE. GEOFFREY HOWE ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT WERE MAKING AVAILABLE A FURTHER 5 MILLION POUNDS FOR DROUGHT RELIEF IN ETHIOPIA AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, AND A FURTHER 6,000 TONNES OF GRAIN FOR ETHIOPIA. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE PLANNING BUT I BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNITY AS SUCH COULD AND SHOULD DO MORE. THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTERS TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION AT THE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ON 6 NOVEMBER. I HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENCY WILL TAKE THE LEAD IN PREPARING FOR IT BY BRINGING FORWARD SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR ACTION, AND IN THE MEANTIME CONSIDERING HOW BEST AND MOST QUICKLY TO BRING MORE HELP TO THE VICTIMS OF THIS HUMAN DISASTER. ENDS.

HOWE

ETHIOPIAN DROUGHT

LIMITED

EAD
ECD(E)
UND
NEWS D

PS
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/MR RAISON
PS/PUS
MR FERGUSSON
MR JOHNSON

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