



cc FCO LPO
Constituent

C.F. to note

Overseas Aid

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 March 1980

Dear Miss Lester,

Thank you for your letter of 27 February enclosing one from Mr. M. Brueck of 132 Stoke Road, Slough, about overseas aid.

The Government's overriding aim is to restore Britain's economy. For this, it is essential to reduce the share of resources taken by public expenditure. Our decisions on planning figures up to 1983/84 will be announced in the Public Expenditure White Paper to be published this week.

As in the case of other programmes, overseas aid will have to bear its share of the reductions in public expenditure which it is our declared policy to make. Nevertheless our aid programme will remain substantial and we shall continue to apply the funds available to the greatest possible effect.

Mr. Brueck will have read reports of this Government's Aid Policy Review Statement made last month and will be reassured that we fully recognise the mutual benefits which will come from assisting the developing countries.

We regard the Brandt Report as an important and influential document and are now studying its general approach and specific recommendations.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Miss Joan Lester, M.P.

HS