

Note in Told Graft
Dart matter was being
left to rest

AT 22/7



SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY
THAMES HOUSE SOUTH
MILLBANK LONDON SW1P 4QJ
01 211 7214

Prime Minister

Agree to let matter rest here?
Perhaps this will be a lesson to
Mr Walker - careless
talk costs money.

AT

Yes not

25/7

Andrew Turnbull Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

24 July 1985

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter of 17 July, regarding the Prime Minister's concern about press reports of views attributed to my Secretary of State at a meeting he addressed last Monday in Birmingham.

He made no such speech, and there was no press handout. The meeting was in fact of partners of a firm of accountants who, among other places, have an office in my Secretary of State's constituency. As far as Mr Walker was aware there were no members of the media present, although he discovered afterwards that somebody from the Press Association had been informed of the gathering.

The Secretary of State was asked to speak about the problems confronting world business over the next fifteen years. He stated that it was important for there to be sensible arrangements concerning world debts so that growth could take place in some of the major developing countries of the world. He in no way suggested that it should be for countries to refuse to meet their debts, but in answer to a question did say that there must be political dangers of political leaders in such countries fighting elections on the basis that if they were elected they would refuse to service the debts.

Yours ever,

G S DART
Private Secretary

SECRET AND PERSONAL

sfw



me

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 July 1985

THIRD WORLD DEBT

bf | The Prime Minister has seen the press reports of your Secretary of State's speech on Monday in Birmingham. From these reports the speech comes over, if not as an encouragement to Third World debtors to default, at least as sympathetic to them should they adopt this course. The Prime Minister would be extremely disturbed if this message came to be thought to represent the policy of the Government. She would be grateful, therefore, for an account of what your Secretary of State actually said.

(ANDREW TURNBULL)

ms

Geoff Dart, Esq.,
Department of Energy.

SECRET AND PERSONAL