



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 June, 1983

Dear John,

Prime Minister

To note.

EC Emergency Aid to Argentina

A.J.C. 24/6.

You may wish to be aware of an EC proposal to give emergency aid to Argentina.

The League of Red Cross Societies launched an appeal on 26 May for SFf. 2,205,200 for shelter, food, water purification equipment and transport in response to the prolonged flooding which has affected several provinces of Argentina since the end of last year. The Commission have told us informally that they intend to contribute 250,000 ecu (£142,000) through the League and asked for our views.

The situation has now become a great deal more serious than it was when we declined to make a bilateral contribution to an earlier appeal in January. We do not normally oppose Commission proposals for emergency aid. If we did so in this case we could well be criticised at home and abroad for playing politics with human suffering. Conversely, we see no significant risk that our acquiescence in EC aid will be interpreted as any kind of political signal by the Argentines or others. Ministers have therefore agreed that we should apply strictly humanitarian criteria to this request, and we have told the Commission that we have no objection to this proposal.

I am copying this letter to Richard Hatfield in the Cabinet Office.

Yours ever  
John Holmes

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street

file

da

1 July 1983

0

EC Emergency Aid to Argentina

Thank you for your letter of 28 June.  
The Prime Minister has noted the position.

I am copying this letter to Richard  
Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A J COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.