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cc: FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 August 1984

Dear Mr. Clausen,

Thank you for your letter of 20 July about supplementary financing for the International Development Association.

We are disappointed that some donor governments are not prepared to subscribe more to the Association unless the United States Government does so at the outset. It is right to review the matter again next year.

The World Bank's focus on development problems in sub-Saharan Africa is timely, as the Summit Heads of Government recognised in the London Economic Declaration of 9 June. As you know, Her Majesty's Government already devotes most of the UK bilateral aid programme to the world's poorest countries, including those in sub-Saharan Africa. This region also benefits considerably from European Community assistance provided under the Lome Convention, to which the UK is a substantial contributor. We are also providing immediate disaster relief to help mitigate the effects of the drought.

The Bank's report on African problems will receive our close attention, and we shall look forward to discussing it with other governments at next month's meeting of the Development Committee.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Mr. A.W. Clausen

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