

PRIME MINISTER

Ric Quirk  
OAN  
15/12

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INTERVIEW WITH "BLUE PETER"

You have agreed to give BBC TV's programme "Blue Peter" an interview tomorrow afternoon to help in their appeal for money for Kampuchea. The interview will be shown on Monday 19 December.

The interview will be prefaced by a short background piece about the politics of Kampuchea in the time of Pol Pot, the complicated international diplomacy that's taken place since then and your involvement in the region through your visit to Thailand during the summer.

Blue Peter raised £3.75 million in 1979 through viewers organising Bring and Buy sales. The money raised was used to provide 57 lorries, tools, nets and seeds, 200 irrigation pumps and a ferry. The programme recently returned to Kampuchea to film and found that many of the items they provided nine years ago were still in use. It has explained to its viewers that the need to keep the ferry running across the Mekong is as important to Kampuchea as the M1 motorway is to us.

The funds raised through this latest Bring and Buy sales appeal will be used to renovate the items provided in 1979 and also for the improvement of Phnom Penh's waterworks and the equipping of a technical training school. These are all Oxfam-led projects.

In a leaflet Blue Peter sends to all those who enquire about Bring and Buy Sales it explains the desperate need of the people who are "struggling to rebuild a country wrecked by one of the most awful dictators in history." It goes on to explain how during four years of Pol Pot rule two million people - up to one quarter of the population - were murdered, or died of disease and starvation.

The leaflet also explains how Bring and Buy Sales can be organised stressing that children should ask an adult - parent, teacher, Sunday School teacher or youth leader - to apply for a Bring and Buy sale kit.

Blue Peter's 1988 appeal was launched on 10 November and so far over 20,000 Bring and Buy sales have been organised by viewers and more than £400,000 raised. The programme reached its first target of £150,000 in just over two weeks and has now increased it to £1 million.

The programme is watched mainly by children and although we call the country Cambodia it is known to them as Kampuchea. The

programme did explain the country had two names at the beginning of the appeal.

To save any confusion in the minds of the children you should explain early on that the British Government calls the country they know as Kampuchea, Cambodia and that you will be using this name.

The interviewer tomorrow afternoon will be Caron Keating, one of the programme's presenters, who went to Kampuchea last month.

The question areas will be:

- how does the Government expect the Kampuchean situation to develop, especially with regard to the Khmer Rouge?
- what plans, if any, does the Government have to increase long-term development aid to the country?

On the first question you can say that it is important that the people of Cambodia have an opportunity themselves to choose their own Government. To this end it is essential that the Vietnamese soldiers who invaded the country in 1978 and have been there illegally ever since leave Cambodia. There are encouraging signs that the Vietnamese are ready to leave Cambodia, but it is too early to be completely confident of their intentions.

It is equally important that a way is found to stop the Khmer Rouge from regaining power in Cambodia by force. This can only be achieved in the context of an overall political settlement. The fear of the Khmer Rouge is no reason for Vietnamese to continue staying in the country and delaying a political settlement. The British Government does not in any way support the Khmer Rouge. The Government does not recognise the Government of Democratic Kampuchea or have any dealings with it.

As we do not recognise the Government Britain is not in a leading role in trying to bring about a settlement but we are ready to help when and where we can through the United Nations.

On the second question you can say that as we do not recognise the Government we do not therefore have any direct contact with them over aid but this does not mean that the British Government does not give help through the voluntary agencies such as the Red Cross, Oxfam and UNICEF.

In fact at the interview on Friday afternoon you can say that you are pleased to announce that the Government is giving £250,000 to UNICEF for its important programme of work in Cambodia. (Chris Patten will be making the announcement by way of a written answer on Monday afternoon. You can mention it to Blue Peter on Friday as the programme will not be transmitted until after Mr Patten has made his announcement).

The extra £250,000 will be used by UNICEF to help children in Cambodia and also to help mothers and babies in health care projects.

*Only £100,000 - World Food Bank*  
*at £2m*  
*Save the Children*  
*£m*

You can point out that this money is in addition to £100,000 the Government gave in July to the World Food Programme and a further half a million pounds announced at the Save The Children Fund annual conference in October to support projects being run by voluntary agencies in Cambodia.

*£250,000*  
*£13m*  
*58%*

In addition to this money, since 1979 Britain has given over £13 million in aid to Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand. The money has been mainly channelled through international agencies such as the Red Cross. You can tell the viewers that when you visited one of the camps on the Thai border in August you announced a further £520,000 for next year.

You can also draw on your personal experience at Site 2 of the suffering of the hundreds or thousands of Cambodians who have been forced to flee their country as a result of the Vietnamese invasion in 1978. You can also mention Prince Sihanouk's visit to Britain and the talks you had with him in October.

So, although Britain is not making any direct contributions to Cambodia the Government is providing a lot of money to help to ease the suffering of the people still living there and also those who have been forced to leave. You can remind the viewers that Britain provides many millions of pounds each year to help many developing countries throughout the world.

If you have the opportunity you should praise Blue Peter for the marvellous work they have done for many years now in raising money for very needy causes. You should also give a special thank you to all those children - some of them no doubt parents themselves now - who have played such an magnificent part over the years in helping to raise millions of pounds for those in need. It has been a remarkable achievement.

You can add that the latest appeal has got off to a magnificent start and encourage all those youngsters watching to do all they

can to help so that the target of £1 million is reached. But warn them that whatever they decide to do they must first discuss it with their parents, teachers or youth leaders.

Blue Peter will be holding an auction in March and have asked if there is some small item of yours, which could be identified with you, that you might offer to them. If there is an item you would like to offer for auction you could hand it over to Caron Keating on film tomorrow afternoon.

The interview will take place in the White Room using two cameras so there will a larger than usual crew.

A make-up girl will be available from 2pm.

T.J.P

Terry J Perks  
15 December 1988

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 December 1988

*Don Mike*

**Cambodia: Prime Minister's interview for Blue Peter**

Bernard Ingham asked ODA for some briefing on aid for this interview. You may in addition welcome the following political bull points depending on the sophistication of the question.

The Prime Minister will wish to draw on her personal experience at Site 2 of the suffering of the hundreds of thousands of Cambodians who have been forced to flee their country as a result of the Vietnamese invasion on 1978. She could also mention Prince Sihanouk's visit to Britain and her talks with him in October.

The main objective is for the people of Cambodia to have the opportunity to elect freely a government of their own choice. To this end it is essential that the Vietnamese withdraw their armed forces from Cambodia and end their illegal occupation. There are encouraging signs that the Vietnamese are ready to pull out, but it is too early to be completely confident of their intentions.

It is equally essential that a way be found to prevent the Khmer Rouge from regaining power in Cambodia by force. This can only be achieved in the context of an overall political settlement. The spectre of the Khmer Rouge is no justification for prolonging the Vietnamese occupation and delaying a political settlement.

Responsibility for finding a solution lies primarily in the hands of those who are directly involved in the dispute. Britain is not in a leading role although we are ready to help when and where we can, notably as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

/If



If asked, the Prime Minister will wish to make it plain that Britain does not support the Khmer Rouge. We do not recognise the Government of Democratic Kampuchea (we in any case recognise States not Governments) nor do we have any dealings with it.

*Yours ever*

*R N Peirce*

(R N Peirce)  
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14 December 1988

*Dear Terry,*

You mentioned at MIO the Prime Minister's interview next Monday with Blue Peter on Cambodia.

2. I attach some briefing material which I hope will be helpful.

*Yours sincerely,*

*J C Machin*

J C Machin  
Head of Information



PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH BLUE PETER, DECEMBER 1988

AID TO CAMBODIA

*Food  
FAO/WFP  
World Food Programme*

Points to Make

1. Remain ready to consider assisting any internationally organised programme of humanitarian assistance within Cambodia. Have already announced contribution of £100,000 to FAO/WFP appeal.
2. Highest priority has been assistance to refugees in camps on border with Thailand. Britain is still largest bilateral donor.
3. Have made available an additional £500,000 to support projects in developing countries (including humanitarian projects in Cambodia) proposed by British Voluntary agencies for joint funding.
4. Still far too early to consider longer term government-to-government aid. Prepared to reconsider when Government acceptable to majority of Cambodians is in place.

Overseas Development Administration  
14 December 1988

*Patton 16.12  
UNICEF donation  
£250,000 to  
use in Cambodia.*

*Other discussions  
& next school  
health care  
projects  
Ann P & for Mander  
for Ann Patton.*

*So, over a year  
and of £250,000  
to UNICEF for  
its use in  
Cambodia.*

## PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH BLUE PETER, DECEMBER 1988

### AID TO CAMBODIA

#### Background

In developmental terms, the case for aid to Cambodia is strong. Although there are no reliable national income statistics, the country ranks as one of the poorest in the world in the level of its basic indicators on health, infant mortality and life expectancy. These problems have been exacerbated by a drought in 1987 which the Cambodian authorities termed the worst in a decade.

2. Despite the chronic poverty we have not given aid to Cambodia for some years. Following the famine in 1980, we indicated our readiness to consider the provision of emergency humanitarian aid in the context of an internationally organised relief effort. Meanwhile, the higher priority was considered to be assistance to Cambodian refugees in camps on the border with Thailand. British aid to Cambodian refugees since 1979 has exceeded £13 million, mainly channelled through international agencies such as Red Cross and the United Nations. The Prime Minister announced contributions totalling a further £520,000 for the next financial year during her visit to Thai border camp in August. But in common with other non-Soviet bloc countries our policy is not to give development aid under the present circumstances. There is however aid involvement by British NGOs; Oxfam, in particular, has a substantial programme (about £1.5 million in 1987/88).

3. A resumption of development aid to Cambodia would go against Ministers' wishes to see a reduction in the geographical spread of the bilateral programme by 1991/92. However if a satisfactory political settlement was in place, there would be strong political pressures for the provision of aid for a country which is seen as suffering primarily as a result of the Vietnamese overthrow of the

Infamous Pol Pot regime.

4. Our aid policy to Cambodia has been kept under review in the light of recent developments in the political situation. At a meeting on 22 July to review policy on Cambodia, the Secretary of State said that we could be more flexible on aid insofar as existing resources would permit. On 28 July Mr Patten announced in the Adjournment Debate that HMG would contribute £100,000 to an FAO/WFP appeal for Cambodia, and on 25 October he announced at the Save The Children Fund annual conference an additional allocation of £500,000 to support projects, including humanitarian projects in Cambodia, proposed by British voluntary agencies for assistance under the Joint Funding Scheme.

Overseas Development Administration  
14 December 1988