



Mr Cole

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SECURITY
Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

Telephone 01-407 5522

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

Prime Minister

Agree to sign attached
memo :

David Barclay Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON

As amended on
second page.

and if request 12th April 1984
no

Miz

Dear David,

DINNER FOR UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS ON 16 APRIL

Among the guests at the dinner the Prime Minister is giving on 16 April in honour of the Heads of Organisations of the United Nations Family, on the occasion of their meeting in London, will be Mr Rafael Salas, Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, and Director-General of the International Conference on Population which is to be held in Mexico City this August.

In this latter capacity, Mr Salas has requested Heads of Government to contribute brief statements (approximately 500 words, together with a photograph) concerning their views on population. These are to be published in a volume to be given global distribution about the middle of this year, a few weeks in advance of the above-mentioned conference. It is possible that Mr Salas may want to use the opportunity presented at the dinner on 16 April personally to urge the Prime Minister to contribute to the publication.

The background is as follows. The International Conference on Population is potentially an important opportunity to bring together developing and developed countries openly to discuss population questions. Problems caused by rapid population growth in the developing world and the need for greater commitment to solve them will be at the forefront of the debate.

As regards Mr Salas's request that the Prime Minister should contribute a statement, it is known that the Heads of Government of some other developed countries (among them Australia, and the Federal Republic of Germany) are definitely to make statements, and that several others (including Canada, USA and Japan) will probably do so. Heads of Governments of some 35 developing countries have already done so.

A statement of this kind would underline the importance of population to the process of development, as recognised in the communiques from the Ottawa, Cancun and Versailles summits, and more recently that from the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in New Delhi, as well as in other international statements.

E. R.

The FCO and ODA are in favour of the Prime Minister making a statement, and a draft is attached showing the kind of points which this might make. If the Prime Minister is content to contribute, and the matter is raised, she may wish to tell Mr Salas herself that she will do so and will send a final text shortly. Alternatively, if you would let me know, we will arrange for Mr Salas to be informed through the usual channels.

I am copying this to Mr Power (ODA) as his Minister will be at the dinner, as will John Patten from this Department. A copy also goes to Mrs Filer (OPCS).

Yours sincerely,

Ellen Roberts
ELLEN ROBERTS

DRAFT OF POSSIBLE STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Rapid growth in population is one of the major problems facing the world community today. For the world in general, but especially in many developing countries, it is putting serious pressure on resources.

In many of the poorest countries of the world it frustrates efforts to deal with basic questions of hunger and disease; in others the benefits of development are too thinly spread over expanding populations.

For humanitarian reasons, and to achieve the higher standards of living and improved quality of life which are the aims of all countries, urgent action is needed to reduce rates of population growth.

All countries, including the United Kingdom, have as a major aim the reduction of premature mortality and the achievement of a healthy life for their population. The very success already achieved over the past few decades in reducing mortality now requires that we face the consequent problem of dealing with the rapid growth in world population.

I am heartened that, increasingly, Governments and peoples are accepting that the fundamental solution to this problem, and an essential component in this process of modernisation, is smaller family sizes.

The United Kingdom fully subscribes to the principles set out in the World Population Plan of Action that couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so. [These principles ~~guide family planning policy within the United Kingdom.~~

I recognise that problems of high rates of population growth in developing countries ~~will not be solved simply through the provision of family planning~~ but must be seen as part of the wider problems of social and economic development, *and that it is for each country to decide how best to tackle its own problem.*

My hope is that the International Conference of Population will lead to renewed and strengthened commitments to take effective action to tackle the problems of population growth in the developing world.

~~_____~~

~~_____~~

RESTRICTED

CC 10



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 April 1984

Dear John,

United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination

/ I enclose some speaking notes which the Prime Minister
might care to use at the dinner she is giving for the
/ United Nations Secretary-General and other heads of UN
organisations on 16 April. I also enclose a background note
about the ACC and some current issues which could arise.

I shall send you separately briefs for Perez de Cuellar's
call on the Prime Minister in the afternoon of 16 April.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

BACKGROUND BRIEF



UN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION (ACC)

1. The ACC, established in 1946, comprises the executive heads of the UN Specialised Agencies, IAEA and GATT under the chairmanship of the UN Secretary-General. The heads of other UN organs (eg special funds such as UNICEF) are invited to attend as appropriate.
2. The ACC supervises the implementation of agreements between the United Nations and the Specialised Agencies and promotes the coordination of the activities of the various bodies. An initiative by Perez de Cuellar on assistance for Africa may dominate this meeting.
3. The ACC meets twice a year: once in New York and once in another UN headquarters city. On this occasion, the ACC are guests of the International Maritime Organisation and Mr Srivastava, its Secretary-General, is in charge of the arrangements.
4. The Specialised Agencies are separate autonomous bodies related to the United Nations Organisation by special agreements. They have their own membership, legislative and executive bodies and their own budgets (the UK contribution to individual budgets is generally in the range 4.5% - 5.5%).
5. The following notes deal with current issues of particular interest, or points which guests may raise.

a) UNESCO (Mr M'Bow)

We reviewed our policy towards UNESCO in 1983. We decided to remain a member and work for change from within. We shall review our position again at the end of 1984. US withdrawal takes effect then. Mr Raison wrote to Mr M'Bow on 2 April indicating areas in which we seek change. He will see Mr M'Bow on 18 April.

b) ILO (Mr Blanchard)

The TUC have complained to the ILO that the decision to disallow

trade union membership at GCMQ has placed the UK in breach of ILO Convention 87. HMG is about to submit its reply. The relevant ILO Committee will probably consider the complaint in May. Mr Blanchard may ask where matters stand on the future of the Wage Councils. When they met in Geneva in 1982, the Prime Minister asked Mr Blanchard whether the exclusion of young people from Wage Council awards would place us in breach of Convention No.26 (wage fixing machinery). The Government are still considering the future of the Wage Councils and have in mind their conventional obligations.

c) ICAO (Mr Lambert)

The International Civil Aviation Organisation has been deeply involved in the aftermath of the Korean Airliner disaster. Mr Lambert was responsible for producing the independent report which rejected Russian allegations of a spying mission and paved the way for a Council resolution condemning the Russian action. ICAO members will soon consider an amendment to the Chicago Convention in this area.

d) UNDP (Mr Morse)

Incoming Ministers cut back the level of our support for UNDP in 1980. Our 1984 pledge is £19m.

e) UNICEF (Mr Grant)

In 1983, the UK contributed £6m making us one of the largest contributors (ahead of the FRG and Japan). Nevertheless, Grant has sought to imply that we have contributed less than he might have expected. He recently inspired a critical article in The Observer which compared the UK's per capita contribution unfavourably with that of Scandinavian countries. When Grant visited London in 1982, the Prime Minister gave him an assurance that we should maintain our contribution to UNICEF "at a good level as in the past".

f) UNFPA (Mr Salas)

Salas is also Secretary-General of the World Population Conference (Mexico, August 1984). Ministers are considering a request to Heads of Government for a statement on the importance of population issues, for inclusion in the pre-Conference publicity.

g) UNHCR (Mr Hartling)

Hong Kong has submitted proposals to repatriate Vietnamese who do not qualify as refugees. No decision will be taken without the support and involvement of UNHCR who are considering the proposals. Vietnam is unlikely to give adequate guarantees not to punish returnees in the near future.

h) UNRWA (Mr Rydbeck)

The UK have nominated a candidate to succeed Mr Rydbeck (Mr John Moberly, HMA Baghdad).


i) UNCTAD (Mr Corea)

US has put forward proposals for reform of UNCTAD. UK and other Western countries are working with the US to develop these. UNCTAD is part of the UN and it is not possible for the US to withdraw from it, as it is doing from UNESCO, though they could stop attending meetings.

j) UNITAR (Mr Doo Kingue)

A small UK contribution was ended by the incoming Government in 1979.

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
12 MARCH 1984



DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES FOR PRIME MINISTER'S USE
AT DINNER ON MONDAY, 16 APRIL

Happy to have this rare opportunity to invite all the Chiefs of the UN family to Number Ten. Glad to think that London is also one of the UN centres. Proud to have the International Maritime Organisation, your host for this week's meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, in our midst.

Extraordinary range of international activity represented here today: political, economic, developmental, humanitarian, regulatory. Demonstrates the strength and diversity of the effort of the countries of the world today to promote co-operation among themselves for the good of the planet as a whole.

United Kingdom can claim to have played a major role in the creation of virtually every institution represented around this table. We are as keen now as we have ever been to play our full part in the crucial work in which you are engaged.

At a time when all countries are facing economic difficulties, we have had to look to the United Nations to exercise maximum financial restraint. We welcome the responsible attitude that the United Nations organisations have generally shown. Our emphasis on the need for economy and efficiency does not in any way betoken a lessening of support for the ideals of the United Nations family. All human organisations benefit from discipline. Lean and efficient institutions can be more satisfying to work in as well as more cost effective in terms of the benefits conferred upon their Member States.

United Kingdom not intent on pursuing narrow national concerns. Of course we have interests we must protect and promote. There are certainly UK values we are determined to uphold. But history has made us a country which is perhaps

unique in the strength of its ties with so many other countries in all parts of the world. Their peace and prosperity are vital British concerns. We are as well placed as any country to understand and share the global concerns which must motivate the institutions you lead.

We live in an age in which interdependence is an obvious fact and global co-operation a manifest necessity. The United Nations cannot be a panacea and individual States must bear their own responsibilities. But in such a world, the contribution the United Nations can make is plainly indispensable. I pay tribute to the efforts you have made to promote our common goals in your respective fields. I honour the dedication and commitment of so many international civil servants. I pledge the continued support of the United Kingdom for the ideals of the institutions you represent and wish you all success in the tasks ahead.

[Toast: 'The United Nations family.'
Perez de Cuellar to respond.]