

3



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister.

Could you please sign this
amended version - you saw an
earlier text over the weekend.

A.S.C. ^{16/}4.



10 DOWNING STREET

cc: DHSS
ODA
OPCS

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.

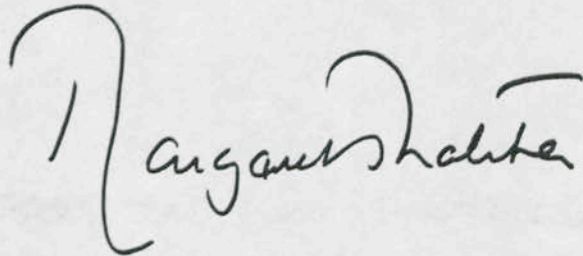
/The United Kingdom

858

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.

I recognise that problems of high rates of population growth in developing countries 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Margaret Thatcher". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.

April 1984

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 GCHQ 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.

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10 MAY 1984/0336

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MIAMIFLO TLX FM NEWYORKNY XO 105 (100 09 2220 VIA TRT

ETATPRIORITE

RIGHT HONOURABLE MRS. MARGARET THATCHER

PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE

TREASURY

10 DOWNING STREET LONDON, S.W.1.

R12
A.F.C. 14/5
f.a.

CCY1444-05 UNINSTAR/ED/84/073 ON MY RETURN TO NEW YORK AFTER THE ACC MEETING HELD LAST MONTH IN LONDON, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO YOUR EXCELLENCY FOR THE GENEROUS HOSPITALITY SO CORDIALLY EXTENDED TO ME AND TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ACC. I ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO CLOSER AND FRUITFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN YOUR GREAT COUNTRY AND UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (UNITAR). HIGHEST CONSIDERATION (MICHEL DOO KINGUE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNITAR UNITED NATIONS NEW YORK)

COL 10 S.W.1. CCY1444-05 UNINSTAR/ED/84/073 (UNITAR). CONSID-
(MICHEL
YORK)

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file UN Dinner



Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street London SW1P 3EB

01-212 7390

Chief Scientist and Deputy Secretary
Dr M W Holdgate CB

Andrew Turnbull Esq
Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street

10 May 1984

PERSONAL

Dear Andrew,

Thank you so much for your letter of 30 April, with the speaking notes the Prime Minister used at the United Nations Dinner on 16 April.

I have sent a copy to Richard Sandbrook on the basis you suggest, and I am also keeping a copy by me for my own reference in my forthcoming visit to the Governing Council of the UN Environment Programme in Nairobi. There are some pleasantly telling points, which I might find it handy to echo!

Yours ever,

M W Holdgate

M W HOLDGATE

UN DINNER : SPEAKING NOTES

A WARM WELCOME TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL
AND ALL THE HEADS AND OFFICIALS OF THE OTHER
UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS AND SPECIALISED
AGENCIES GATHERED HERE.

AND TO OUR OTHER GUESTS, PRACTICALLY ALL OF WHOM ARE
CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH AND DIRECTLY
INTERESTED IN THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

I AM DELIGHTED THAT LONDON, THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME ORGANISATION, IS HOSTING YOUR
MEETING THIS WEEK.

/ Now, I AM

Now, I AM TOLD THAT I MUST BE CAREFUL, THAT EVERY ORGANISATION AND SPECIALISED AGENCY HERE IS PROUD OF ITS SPECIAL STATUS, THAT IF I MENTION ONE BY NAME I MUST MENTION THEM ALL - AND THAT IF I GET THEM IN THE WRONG ORDER I SHALL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE PERSONALLY CONDEMNED IN THE NEXT RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

WELL, I DARE SAY I COULD STAND THAT.

BUT I WILL AVOID THE TRAPS ANYWAY AND TALK INSTEAD ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS FAMILY.

/ THE UNITED

THE UNITED KINGDOM CAN CLAIM - INDEED WE DO CLAIM -

TO HAVE PLAYED A MAJOR PART IN THE CREATION
OF VIRTUALLY EVERY INSTITUTION REPRESENTED
AROUND THIS TABLE.

YOU REPRESENT AN EXTRAORDINARY RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL
ACTIVITY: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, DEVELOPMENTAL,
HUMANITARIAN, REGULATORY.

BETWEEN YOU, YOU HAVE THROUGH THE MEMBER COUNTRIES,
IMMENSE CAPACITY TO INFLUENCE OUR WHOLE
PLANET.

YOU SEE IN EVERY DAY OF YOUR WORKING LIVES
THE ATTEMPTS TO IMPLEMENT THE IDEALS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS - YOU SEE THE SUCCESSES AND

/ YOU ARE

YOU ARE MORE CONSCIOUS THAN MOST OF THE
FAILURES.

AND IT FOLLOWS THAT YOU FEEL PARTICULARLY
KEENLY THE FRUSTRATIONS WHICH COME FROM
THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE IDEALS AND THE
PERFORMANCE.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S MESSAGE TO YOU TONIGHT IS

ONE OF STRONG SUPPORT FOR YOUR EFFORTS.

HISTORY HAS MADE BRITAIN A COUNTRY WHICH

IS ALMOST 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.

/ BUT THE

BUT THE PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF OUR PLANET ARE YOUR
GOALS TOO.

THAT IS ONE REASON - NOT THE ONLY ONE -
WHY WE WORK WITH YOU.

WE SHARE AND UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS.

YOU HAVE HEARD A GOOD DEAL FROM OUR SPOKESMAN ABOUT
MONEY.

I EXPECT YOU WILL HEAR A GOOD DEAL MORE.

IN A TIME OF ECONOMIC DIFFICULTY ACROSS
THE WORLD WE HAVE HAD TO LOOK TO THE UNITED
NATIONS TO EXERCISE MAXIMUM FINANCIAL
RESTRAINT.

/ WE CANNOT URGE

WE CANNOT URGE PRUDENT FINANCIAL POLICIES AT HOME
WITHOUT SEEKING SIMILAR POLICIES IN THOSE
ORGANISATIONS WHICH WE SUPPORT AND TO WHICH
WE CONTRIBUTE.

I KNOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THIS - AND WE
WELCOME THE RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE THAT THE
UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS HAVE
GENERALLY SHOWN.

I WISH YOU A GOOD AND PRODUCTIVE MEETING IN LONDON.

AND I HOPE WHEN YOU LEAVE YOU WILL FEEL -
IF NOT REFRESHED, FOR THE EFFECT OF LONG
MEETINGS IS RARELY TO REFRESH - AT
LEAST ENCOURAGED.

/ ENCOURAGED

ENCOURAGED BECAUSE YOU HAVE SOLVED FOR EVER ALL
PROBLEMS OF CO-ORDINATION AND RIVALRIES
BETWEEN THE ORGANISATIONS AND AGENCIES.

MORE SERIOUSLY, ENCOURAGED BECAUSE YOU HAVE LOOKED
INTO THE FUTURE AND NOT FOUND IT ENTIRELY
DAUNTING.

AND ENCOURAGED BECAUSE YOU FEEL THAT WE IN THIS
COUNTRY ARE BEHIND YOU AND WILL CONTINUE
TO WORK WITH YOU TOWARD THE IDEALS OF
THE INSTITUTION YOU REPRESENT.

TOAST