

SUBJECT

cc OPS
Master.

The President of the Republic
No. 460/PR

Lome, 6th December 1984

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. J208^{MA}/84

Dear Madam Prime Minister,

The Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, thanks to your personal intervention, has shown a real willingness to go to the assistance of the disinherited countries and has not ceased to increase its aid and assistance for the countries of the Third World in general and Africa in particular, thereby perpetuating the movement of solidarity, humanism and generosity which has always characterised the great British people in regard to our countries.

I am taking the liberty of writing to you today on behalf of the States of ECOWAS because we feel certain that once again our appeal will be heard.

Indeed, the object of this letter is to ask you to lend your personal support to the creation of a Special Fund for Africa.

This proposition has been submitted by the African delegations to the Development Committee at the Meeting of Governments of the World Bank in September last in Washington. It was supported by all the Heads of the African States at the last meeting of the O.A.U. at Addis Ababa and has been the object of the particular attention of the Heads of States of ECOWAS during the conference which was held at Lome on 22nd and 23rd November.

The discussion at Lome centred on a number of reports and documents prepared by our regional institutes such as the Economic Council for Africa (E.C.A.), the African Development Bank (A.D.B.), and on Africa's economic crisis, its consequences

and its remedies. The droughts of 1983-84 have polarised the attention of the international community which has provided the countries affected with emergency aid and generous supplies of food. However, as is clearly demonstrated by the attached motion from the Heads of States of ECOWAS, the African governments are convinced that the economic problems of their countries are also of a structural nature and consequently call for vigorous and concerted action by Africa and the International Community. The severe programmes of recovery and the exceptional efforts at adjustment which the African governments have undertaken and have decided to continue will need to be matched by exceptional assistance on the part of the International Community. The mechanism of the Special Fund is one of the privileged instruments which will manifest in concrete terms the political and economic solidarity between the industrialised countries and sub-Saharan Africa in the present circumstances of its development.

Admittedly, a Special Fund for Africa will not of itself be sufficient to ensure the economic and financial recovery of our continent. We are aware that it will be the African countries themselves mainly which will require to take the necessary measures; and also that the financial support which will facilitate the execution of our programmes will require to derive from a coherent assembly of programmes of bilateral and multilateral aid and adjustments and rescheduling for our indebtedness. However, we see in the creation of a Special Fund for Africa a gesture of considerable scope which will mean that the International Community is beginning to become

conscious of the efforts which we have made and the sacrifices imposed upon us by the adjustments and the recovery, and is giving us all the political and economic support necessary to encourage us in this direction. In addition, the creation of this Fund will provide the international institutions with the supplementary resources which they require in order effectively to strengthen the economic and sectorial policy dialogue which we are conducting more and more effectively with the World Bank and the I.M.F., which are our privileged opposite numbers in this politically highly sensitive field.

To conclude, Madam Prime Minister, I should like, on behalf of the Republic of Togo and on behalf of the Heads of the ECOWAS States, to ask you to intervene personally to ensure that your country participates directly and immediately in this important operation. Several of the Governments of the industrialised countries appear to have decided to go along with us. But without the active and vigorous support of your country, many will hesitate to commit themselves resolutely in this matter. Admittedly, the Special Fund would not be a supplement for I.D.A. 7, the negotiation of which was based on pre-established quotas; rather, it would consist of a series of voluntary contributions justified by the current crisis in Africa and our present and future efforts at recovery. Nevertheless, we feel that your country will play a particularly decisive part in the attraction of many other countries and partners. This is why we take the liberty of asking you urgently to react favourably to our request, to promote or support the calling of

a meeting of financial backers during the next few weeks and to take the necessary measures to ensure that your country, which has always shown great solicitude for the development problems of sub-Saharan Africa, makes its contribution to an apparatus which is essential for the economic recovery of our countries.

In the meantime, I ask you to believe me, Madam Prime Minister,

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

General GNASSINGBE EYADEMA,
President of the Republic of Togo

THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES
7TH CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE AND OF GOVERNMENT
LOME 22ND/23RD NOVEMBER 1984

A/DCL. 1/11/84 DECLARATION ON THE SPECIAL FUND FOR AFRICA
SOUTH OF THE SAHARA

The Heads of State and of Government, meeting in Conference at Lome, Republic of Togo, on 22nd and 23rd November 1984,

- CONSCIOUS of the extent of the economic crisis which has been affecting Africa to the South of the Sahara for several years and the origin of which is not only the world recession and an unprecedented drought, but also the reversion to desert conditions and serious structural problems;
- AND WHEREAS the results of the various "Development decennia of the United Nations" on economic and social progress have remained inconclusive;
- AND CONVINCED that the national and international emergency measures require to be supplemented by policies of economic redynamisation and long-term recovery programmes;
- AND CONVINCED that the actions undertaken by the African governments should be supported by the relaunching of development aid and its adaptation to the requirements of the African countries and that the exceptional efforts being made by the latter to reform their economic policies should be matched by exceptional assistance from the international Community;

URGENTLY ASK the developed countries to add their efforts to those of the African countries in order to put into effect the plan of concerted action for Africa to the South of the Sahara adopted by the Development Committee of the Monetary Fund and the World Bank

on 23rd September 1984, and to support this plan of action by the creation of a Special Fund for Africa in accordance with the request presented in September 1984 by the African delegations; ENDORSE the resolution adopted in this connection by the Twentieth Conference of Heads of State and of Government of the O.A.U. which was held at Addis Ababa from 12th to 15th November 1984; LAUNCH an urgent appeal to the International Community and to the leaders of the developed countries to give their closest attention to the development problems of the African countries and make a substantial contribution to this Fund; REQUEST the World Bank to convene as early as possible a meeting of financial backers for this purpose.

DONE AT LOME ON 23RD NOVEMBER 1984