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THE PRIME MINISTER

3 January 1985

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 11A/85.

Dear Mr. Nyerere

Thank you for your letter of 1 December about hunger in Africa which you wrote in your capacity as Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity. I am glad to have this opportunity to offer you my congratulations on your election to that post.

The terrible drought in Africa and the human suffering it has caused have been at the forefront of our thoughts in Britain. I was grateful for your kind words about our efforts. We have committed nearly £70 million for drought-related aid for Africa in the present financial year, either direct or through the European Community.

I welcome the response of the OAU Summit Meeting to the problem of drought and famine. I very much agree with the view you reached at the meeting that the primary responsibility for preventing famine in Africa has to rest with Africa. I agree too that structural adjustment programmes hold the key to the problem.

Our Minister for Overseas Development, Timothy Raison, has recently been in Ethiopia and has been following the drought crisis in Africa closely. He would be very glad to exchange views on it with you when he comes to see you at Butiama on 8 January.

Kind regards.
Yours sincerely

His Excellency Mwalimi Dr. Julius K. Nyerere

Margaret Thatcher

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