

SUBJECT  
ce OPS  
Master.



JR.  
PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. TIC/85

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 January 1985

Dear General Lyadema,

Thank you for your letter of 6 December, which you sent on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States, about the World Bank's proposal to create a special Fund for Africa.

I, too, am anxious that the severe economic problems confronting the sub-Saharan African countries should be addressed. I hope that the World Bank's Joint Programme of Action for sub-Saharan Africa will contribute to improving the effectiveness of development assistance, in both the short and the long term. The Programme will be completely effective only if donor and recipient countries alike play their parts. I am heartened by the clear recognition in your letter that appropriate measures must be taken by the African governments themselves. We in the United Kingdom know only too well, from our own experience, that adjustment can often be difficult and painful, but is sometimes necessary.

Britain was one of the first countries to offer to supplement the Seventh Replenishment of the International Development Association, provided only that other donor governments (with the exception of the United States) also contributed on an equitable basis. Unfortunately, the World Bank did not achieve the necessary support for such supplementary financing, and it has proposed instead an

6

entirely voluntary fund applicable to sub-Saharan African countries only.

We shall be considering how Britain can best respond to the World Bank President's initiative. But in doing so we shall have to bear in mind the strength and value of our own substantial bilateral aid programmes to African countries, as well as our contribution to the recent replenishment of the European Development Fund, much of which, as you know, will also benefit Africa.

We shall be having talks next week with officials from the World Bank, and shall be well represented at the donors' meeting in Paris at the end of the month when the Fund for Africa proposal is to be considered further.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

---

His Excellency General Gnassingbe Eyadema