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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 March 1983

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 30/83**

Dear Mr. President.

I have read with much attention Your Excellency's letter of 26 January, in which you set out, on the eve of the recent meeting in Paris of the International Development Association, your deep anxiety over the economic problems faced both by your country and by other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. I fully share your concern.

The United Kingdom has been a staunch supporter of the International Development Association since its inception in 1960. We much regret the present shortage of resources and have done our utmost to help overcome this by allowing International Development Association management to commit in full the £555m grant that the United Kingdom pledged under IDA VI. In addition to this we have joined other donors in making a special contribution to IDA for the fiscal year 1984. The United Kingdom will provide a further grant of £105m for that period.

As you know, the Association is currently paying particular attention to Sub-Saharan Africa, and I understand that the recent meeting of IDA donors' representatives in Paris considered concentration on the countries most in need to be of paramount importance. Sub-Saharan Africa was, of course, uppermost in mind.

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Looking beyond the fiscal year 1984, while we realise the scale of needs we cannot yet be certain what volume of resources IDA VII will have. Many donor countries, like the United Kingdom, are having to implement stringent economic measures of their own. I can assure Your Excellency, however, of my Government's continuing determination to play its part in the negotiations leading to the seventh replenishment (IDA VII) which we hope will be a fully collaborative donor countries' effort.

I should like to take this opportunity to assure Your Excellency of my Government's continuing determination to assist in international endeavours in this field.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Nkomo

His Excellency President Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga