



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 58/83

THE PRIME MINISTER

6 May 1983

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 16 April about the Sixth and Seventh Replenishments of the International Development Association (IDA).

I share your concern that the continuity of IDA's programme is threatened by the shortfall in the appropriation made by the United States Congress for their fiscal year 1983. The British Government is doing everything possible, in co-operation with our European partners, to encourage the US Administration to press for a supplementary appropriation, in the hope that IDA 7 may still begin on 1 July 1984. I have been much encouraged to see the firm statements made recently by senior members of the Administration to Congress in support of the full appropriation of the US contribution by then.

I also fully share your concern at the plight of low income countries and understand how important the size of IDA 7 will be in helping to alleviate their problems. But I am sure you will agree that this time the replenishment must be based on realistic expectations that commitments will be met promptly and in full. We do not want a repeat of the IDA 6 story.

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Any discussion of IDA at Williamsburg will clearly need to focus on these issues. I would expect to see some support for maximising the size of IDA 7 within the limits of what donors can afford, and I would certainly want to argue for that approach myself. We shall do all we can to ensure that IDA continues to play its vital role in the development of the poorest countries.

Every good wish

Yours sincerely

Robert S. McNamara

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Her Excellency Shrimati Indira Gandhi.