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THE PRIME MINISTER

22 December 1983

PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL NO. T229/83

Mai Th. President.

Thank you for your letter of 25 November about the Onchocerciasis Control Programme (OCP) in the Volta River Basin area and its western extension.

We have contributed to the financing of the OCP for some years now and, like you, we are greatly heartened by the most encouraging results achieved by the programme. We fully supported the consensus reached at the Third Session of the Joint Programme Committee (JPC), held in Bamako in December 1982, that the programme should be extended westwards once the financial, technical and logistic constraints had been resolved.

I was glad to learn that the Fourth session of the JPC, held in Paris on 12-15 December, was able to reaffirm these intentions (within the priorities agreed in Bamako) and to authorise substantial expenditure on exploratory work in the western extension area. We are in full agreement with this approach. Our representatives at the Paris meeting announced an increased financial contribution of £600,000 for 1984. I hope that we will be able to continue to support the work of the OCP in future years.

His Excellency M. Abdou Diouf

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