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Prime Minister ⁽²⁾ a AB
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HOME SECRETARYDrug Abuse

1. I have seen a copy of the Prime Minister's letter of 13 September to you on this subject.
2. In addition to the efforts required domestically to combat the problems of drug abuse, there is also of course an international dimension. Any statement at the Party Conference could usefully highlight our present efforts internationally to stem the supply of drugs at source and to clamp down on trafficking.
3. We could say that the UK is a member of, and plays an important role in, the major international forum on drug trafficking and abuse - the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on which the producer countries are also represented. The Commission helps the governments of these countries to promote alternative crops and improve their law enforcement effort against growers and traffickers.
4. We also contribute to the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) which cannels aid into worthwhile projects. In April this year, we pledged £1 million to the Fund's continuing programme for crop substitution and rural development projects in the poppy growing areas of Pakistan. Pakistan has been identified as the source of over 80 per cent of the heroin seized in the UK and in addition to our pledge to the Fund a British Customs Officer has been appointed to the Consulate-General in Karachi to liaise with the Pakistan authorities.

/ 5. We are



5. We are also at present considering how the unspent balance of the £180,000 we gave to UNFDAC last year should be spent. Cyprus, Turkey and Jamaica are the most likely recipients since drugs from all three countries are increasingly finding their way into the UK.

6. We also participate in the Council of Europe Pompidou Group which studies the problems of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotics from a multi-disciplinary point of view.

7. As your officials know, the Community may become more active in this field. It has been suggested that the People's Europe ad hoc group should consider the scope for Community action on drugs problems. More recently the Commission has included aspects of drug abuse in suggestions for further Community action in the area of public health.

8. Bilaterally we have assisted President Reagan's efforts in tackling the drug problem by cooperating fully with the US drug enforcement agencies' efforts in the Caribbean. This was most notably seen in the recent agreement between the United States, the United Kingdom and the Cayman Islands to allow access to documentary information in the Cayman Islands relating to offences connected with the traffic in narcotics. This example and others will of course be well known to your Department.

9. I am anxious that we should do all we can to cooperate as effectively as possible with other countries which face the same problems. If you see a gap in the present international arrangements that needs to be filled, or if you see a need to give special and practical impetus to work in hand, perhaps through joint action by the Economic Summit countries, please let me know.

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10. I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister and to Nigel Lawson, George Younger, Norman Fowler, Keith Joseph, Douglas Hurd and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Howe', written in a cursive style.

GEOFFREY HOWE

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
21 September 1984

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HOME WORKS
Long House
Dec 82



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