

COMMISSION OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

200 rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

The President
3787

Strasbourg, 15 June 1988

Dear President,

Thank you very much for the letter which you sent to me and to the other participants in the forthcoming Toronto Summit. As you know, the Commission is in full agreement with your assessment of the problems of the poorest indebted countries. Over and above what was achieved at the Venice Summit and the progress that has been made since, further efforts are certainly needed to escape from the existing stalemate and to improve the opportunities for growth of the countries concerned.

The options you propose constitute, in my view, an essential contribution to further progress that may be made during work in Toronto. That is in any case my hope and I should be glad if a joint statement of position could be made on behalf of the Europe of the Twelve, or at the very least on behalf of the four European countries that will be present in Canada. I have suggested to the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, who at present holds the Presidency of the Council, that he take the initiative in contacting France, Great Britain, Italy and the Commission for this purpose.

In any event, and in the light of the discussions that will be taking place on this point, I intend to propose that discussion be organised in the Community to enable a consistent and constructive approach on the part of the Member States to be defined as soon as possible. As you no doubt know, the concern with debt will be an immediate consideration in preparing the new Lomé agreements. This could result in exemplary action, helping the underdeveloped countries to achieve both economic reform and structural adjustment opening up new potential for growth.

[complimentary close]

Jacques DELORS

François Mitterand
President of the French Republic