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LITTLE LECKMELM HOUSE
LOCHBROOM
BY GARVE
ROSS-SHIRE

9 May '84

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Dear Prime Minister.

I write to thank you for your generous
immediate response to my letter
of 1st May. The Director General
telephoned me today that he had
heard from the Foreign & Commonwealth
Office of your decision. I cannot tell
you what your action & your
support has done for the British
Council: nor can I ever thank
you personally for your help,
support, interest, & the confidence
you have shown in what we
do & how we do it.
You have awesome responsibilities

Foreign Policy: Review of British Council Aug 79.

Which you carry with such courage
That I worry you with our small
problems with great reluctance: but I
hope you realize how much it means
to me & the Board, Management &
Staff of the British Council that you
have stood by us so steadfastly
in the last few years.

This is just a private letter of thanks
& gratitude. I will, of course, send
a formal one when I have
reported to the Board.

Yours ever

Dick

THE BRITISH COUNCIL
10 SPRING GARDENS LONDON SW1A 2BN
01-930 8466

From The Chairman
Sir Charles Troughton CBE MC TD

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1

1 May 1984

Dear Prime Minister

I was sad to miss our meeting yesterday but of course I absolutely understand the pressures on time which confront you. Indeed I hate adding to them with our problems and only do so because I believe that British interests are being affected more by misunderstanding or mistake than anything else; and because your stalwart support of us and your understanding of our work leads me to believe that you would wish to know my views, for you have always been exceptionally kind and considerate to me.

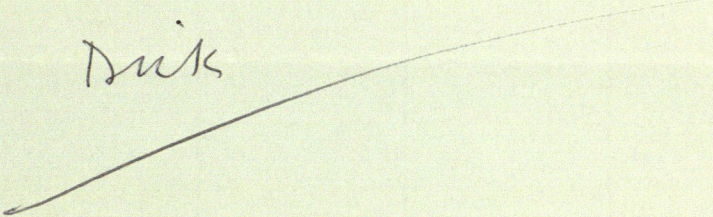
I attach our needs on a separate piece of paper. If these are not met, we will have suffered a 26% cut since 1980 in real terms. If no change is made in the present method of paying our way and this continues into next year, we will suffer a further cut which will bring the 26% cut up to 33%. No organisation can stand this sort of attrition. I am very confident of our financial controls and budgeting skills since the Seeborn/Chorley review and state this with absolute confidence.

This year we are celebrating our Fiftieth Anniversary, as you know, with all sorts of high level festivities, including a visit here by Her Majesty The Queen, a concert at the Royal Festival Hall (paid for entirely by the private sector), a dinner given by you. I believe that after years of persistent work, the morale and the efficiency of the Council is on an entirely different basis, and these celebrations will greatly add to the confidence of all who work here. A setback now would undo all the reforms and enthusiasm we have managed to achieve and impart.

I am now in my last few months here before I retire. I see ahead great opportunities for Britain abroad through the British Council. I cannot believe that these opportunities should be abandoned for what are in national terms relatively small sums.

I am going to Wester Ross tonight but would return at once if you wanted to see me.

Yours am
Duck



The British Council's grant for 1984/85 should include provision for

1. the carrying forward of its 1983/84
Spring Supplementary £2.6m
2. the rent increase at its Spring
Gardens premises (part year) £1.4m
3. arrangements for a refund of proven
risen costs incurred overseas,
nett of exchange rate movements £2.1m

Adequate provision needs to be made for subsequent years
in the Public Expenditure Survey to enable the
Council to plan ahead and operate efficiently.

CHW

Sir Charles Troughton
1 May 1984