



From the Secretary of State

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17. December 1980

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Ian Geoffrey

Not copied to No 10.

UK MEMBERSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

In your letter of 10 November to Ian Gilmour on this subject you remarked that, so far as you knew, my Department had not replied to his original letter of 29 November 1979.

Our officials had been in touch quite recently about a couple of international subscriptions, and mine had advised yours that nothing more formal from us was on its way.

I naturally support Ian Gilmour's objective, and items like "European Incoherent Scatter Facility" and "World Rabbit Association" suggest scope for some savings in this area - at least to the outsider. Nearly all the thirteen international organisations for which I am responsible have normative powers of some kind, corresponding, very broadly, to those I exercise domestically. We must be in a position to influence their deliberations from the outside. Seven of the thirteen cost substantially less than £100,000 a year, others such as the GATT do not leave me any freedom to withdraw!

We shall naturally keep a close watch on the position but, given these circumstances, I see little prospect of my being able to offer any significant savings. I am copying this letter to Cabinet colleagues.

John Nott
John

JOHN NOTT

17 DEC 1980

