



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

9 February 2010

Nick Dearden  
Jubilee Debt Campaign  
28 Charles Square  
London  
N1 6HT

Dear Mr Dearden

Thank you for your letter on behalf of development organisations, following the recent earthquake in Haiti.

We share your concern and sympathy for those affected by the situation in Haiti. The recent earthquake is a major international humanitarian disaster and a tragedy for the people of Haiti. The UK is playing a major role in relief efforts. Our funding for relief and recovery in Haiti now stands at £20 million and we are proud of the major contribution of the British people to the relief effort through the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC).

We believe it is imperative that debt repayments do not hamper reconstruction efforts in Haiti. In June 2009, the international community agreed significant debt cancellation for Haiti worth \$1.2 billion. At this point, the UK cancelled in full all debt owed to it by Haiti, as did other major bilateral creditors who are part of the Paris Club. We are calling on other bilateral creditors to do the same and welcome indications that Venezuela will cancel its claims on Haiti.

Additionally, it is important to stress that in the next few years Haiti is not required to make any debt repayments to its major multilateral creditors – the IMF, World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. Debt repayments to these institutions will not affect Haiti's immediate recovery efforts.

However, Haiti remains very vulnerable to future debt distress and the unprecedented damage caused by the earthquake requires an exceptional response. This is why, at our meeting of 5/6 February in Iqaluit, Canada, my G7 Finance Minister colleagues and I committed to further debt forgiveness. All debt to G7 countries has already been cancelled and we agreed that remaining debt to the multilateral institutions should also be forgiven. We are now working with these institutions and our international partners to make this happen as soon as possible.



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I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for International Development.

*Yours sincerely*  
*[Handwritten signature]*

**ALISTAIR DARLING**