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*File to  
C/O Jordan  
cc. PC*

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

5 September 1990

*Dear Edent.*

JORDAN: REFUGEES

Richard Branson telephoned me this morning about the refugee situation in Jordan, which he described as very bad and growing worse. The immediate need was for more disaster assistance such as tents and blankets. He hoped that the Government would make more money available for this. Virgin would be ready to pay for the transport out there. I said that I would pass on this thought immediately.

Richard Branson's second suggestion was that any military transport aircraft in the area which were either temporarily out of use or flying unladen journeys should be used to help the airlift of refugees out of Jordan. I said I very much doubted this would be practical. But the EC certainly was contributing to the costs of an emergency airlift. He did not pursue this point.

I know that the Prime Minister feels that we ought to contribute more emergency relief for Jordan, either directly or through the ICRC, and I think she would like to see a very early and positive follow-up to Richard Branson's first suggestion.

Since dictating the above, you have told me about the £2 million donation to UNDR0 for refugees in Jordan which we hope to be in a position to announce tomorrow. I am confident that the Prime Minister will approve that.

I am copying this letter to Eamonn Taylor (Overseas Development Administration), John Gieve (HM Treasury), Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence) and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

*Yours sincerely,*  
  
C.D. POWELL

Richard Gozney, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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