



From the Private Secretary

Alistair Doherty
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23 December 2004

Dear Alistair,

It has come to our attention that there is an error in the Government's response to the IDC's 6th Report on Migration and Development, published on Monday 20th December. The reply to recommendation 36 paragraph 1 should read:

"On the question of recognition, the Committee will know that the international community has been working actively to support the creation of a Transitional Federal Government for Somalia and to help that Government to become established in Mogadishu. We believe that this will be the best way of achieving the objectives of bringing peace and democracy to the Somali people and creating the conditions to meet their humanitarian and development needs. The British Government does not recognize Somaliland as an independent state. Nor does the rest of the international community.

The UK has signed up to a common EU position and to a UN Security Council Presidential Statement, which refer to respect for the territorial integrity and unity of Somalia. Nevertheless, the UK is aware of the position of the Somaliland Government and of opinion within Somaliland. We hope that Somaliland will engage in early dialogue with the new Transitional Federal Authorities, which have been created by the current reconciliation process, and that a mutually acceptable solution on the future relationship between Somaliland and the rest of Somalia can be agreed."

I would be grateful if you could draw this to Committee members' attention. It would also be most helpful if you were able to post this letter alongside the Government's response on your website.

Best regards,

Steven Sabey.

Steven Sabey
Private Secretary