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DFID Department for
International
Development

1 Palace Street, London SW1E 5HE

From the Secretary of State

Sylvia Heal MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Telephone: 020 7023 0134
Email: h-benn@dfid.gov.uk

28 July 2005

D Sylvia

Thank you for passing on the note from your constituent, John Parry of Parry Associates, Overend Road, Cradley Heath, West Midlands B64 7DD with his article on 'Progress in development of local roofing industry in Malawi July 2005'.

I am delighted to hear another example of good practical progress in development. John Parry and his colleagues are to be commended for the role they have played. The DFID local office tell me that Parry tiles are far superior to the alternative imported corrugated iron roofing. It is good news that the new industry already employs around 200 people and that there are plans to expand.

With help from John and his colleagues, and from DFID and other donors, Malawi has built 854 classrooms in the first 6 months of 2005. Only another 5,000 primary school classrooms to go! Then the hundreds of thousands of children who are taught under trees, in mud and grass shelters or in dilapidated buildings will have proper learning environments.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours
H

HILARY BENN