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October 2005

On behalf of the government and people of Scotland, I am writing to express our condolences and shock at the damage and loss of life in Pakistan caused by the recent earthquake. The extent of the devastation and the distress of those caught up in the disaster have been made plain to us here through the media.

As those affected by this tragedy are given the immediate assistance they need, your thoughts will be turning to the work of rebuilding homes and communities. I know that the people of Pakistan will turn to this with fortitude and faith in their ability to overcome the terrible effects of these events.

I offer you the solidarity and support of the people of Scotland. I know the Department of International Development are in touch with the authorities in Pakistan to identify ways in which the UK can help. Here in Scotland we are of course ready to respond in any way we can.

JACK MCCONNELL

