

**Alisatair Darling Reflects on the Financial Crisis and the Government's Reaction.  
With Accompanying Note from his Adviser.**

**The Adviser's Note:**

Chancellor,

I suggest the following:

Although we've been doing it for months, always advisable to talk about how we are part of global crisis, implying no fault of ours.

Good to refer to oil crisis - deflects overwrought reaction to upcoming tax hike on fuel, and again implies global problems are the problem.

A few phrases like 'winning through', 'helping families', and 'sense of purpose' are always useful - not too Churchillian, but bonding-type stuff.

Cite America as still in a mess - even America.

Cite fact that Britain was fastest growing country in the developed world in 2007. (I'm not absolutely sure on this, but it's a nifty claim.)

That you are absolutely confident the PM will get us back on track .

Hope this helps.

FL

P.S. Could you please authorise the attached Purchase Order. My computer is woefully out-of-date (18 months old, now) and I mislaid my Blackberry. Not a problem as it's password protected. Thank you.

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**Alistair Darling Reflects:**

"There are two shocks the whole world is suffering from - the credit crunch and the inflationary pressures from rising oil prices. Every economy is affected by it, ours is no exception and it throws up difficult things to deal with.

But you just have to get on with it. I am confident we will get through it and provided we take the right decisions and help families and businesses get through a difficult time, we can do it.

What you are seeing at the moment is clearly going to last for a while. The American economy is still going through difficulties, you are seeing slow-downs in other economies.

There is a lot we have to sort out, but provided we take the right action, then we will get to the other side.

We must remember that our economy in 2007 was the fastest growing economy of all the developed countries. Our economy is strong but like every other country we are affected by global forces. But if we can show the same zeal and enthusiasm, the same sense of purpose and a vision for this country, we can turn things around.

I have every confidence in Gordon Brown's ability to get us back on track and into a winning position."

**Editor's Note: The Chancellor's reflections are dated end 2008.**