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Anti-Apartheid Movement

89 Charlotte Street London W1P 2DQ Tel 01-580 5311

Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP,
Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
London SW1

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

It is now five weeks since the Anti-Apartheid Movement wrote to the Foreign Secretary informing the Government that a number of South African Defence Personnel were believed to be training with Plessey Ltd in the United Kingdom.

We welcomed your assurance in Lusaka that you would look again at the documents relating to the Plessey contracts with South Africa in order to review those arrangements. This undertaking came after representations to the British delegation in Lusaka by Mr Abdul Minty in his capacity as Director of the World Campaign against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa following confirmation by the Foreign Office in London that Plessey Ltd had been granted a series of export licences for radar equipment destined for South Africa.

Despite both your undertakings and promises by the Foreign Office that the matter would be investigated urgently the Government has failed even to comment about the presence of South African Defence Personnel in the United Kingdom. There has also been no response to our proposal that the Export Licences should be "frozen" until a full investigation had been carried out.

I am sure that I do not need to emphasize the Government's responsibility to implement the United Nations mandatory arms embargo against South Africa.

I am rapidly coming to the conclusion that your silence reflects a serious lack of determination to ensure its effective implementation. I look forward to an early reply.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Hughes MP
Chairman

Prime Minister (2)
(advice sought from
R. (10))
Rt Hon 3/9

3rd September 1979