



Speech files.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 September 1980

Dear Laurens,

I was enormously grateful for your letters of 4 September and 9 September about the Bordeaux speech and about the situation in Zimbabwe. More importantly, the Prime Minister greatly appreciated the trouble you have taken on her behalf.

In the event the Prime Minister did not use a great deal of your material although you will find in the enclosed copy of her text more than a trace of your thinking. She decided that she did not have time to do justice to a text in French and that it would have been very difficult to marry your introductory passage with the inevitably mundane passages which would have followed it. But you will have realised from reading today's newspapers how important that brief conversation we had together with the Prime Minister on 1 September has turned out to be in setting the tone for the Prime Minister's encounter with President Giscard.

We are off to Greece and Yugoslavia on Monday but when I get back I shall have to start thinking about, among other things, the Prime Minister's Guildhall speech in November. I have not yet discussed this in any detail with the Prime Minister but I shall try to persuade her that there should be a paragraph or so about the situation in Southern Africa. If you have any ideas about what such a paragraph should contain I should much welcome them. Obviously, as with the Bordeaux speech, I cannot guarantee that your suggestions would be accepted: but they stand a better chance than most people's!

Yours ever

Michael.

Colonel Laurens van der Post, C.B.E.

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