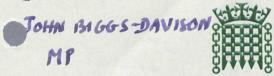
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HOUSE OF COMMONS LONDON SWIA OAA

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Romi Panila

Pear Prime Minister,

Mr Phul

NAHIBIA

Before dinner yesterday you said you would like to have my impressions.

I shall sail you a short note to moment

I believe you may be seeing general Slabbert Shorts.

Jour arce,

John

Your aft and withy specel - as did wengen.

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister
MAD 19/1x

K19/9.

18th September 1980



Note by John Biggs-Davison, M.P., for the Prime Minister on his Southern African tour, 24th August to 6th September 1980.

Herewith a note on my Southern Africa tour as promised in my letter of yesterday.

SOUTH AFRICA

Together with Jim Spicer, I visited South West Africa/Namibia $\underline{\text{via}}$ the Republic. Your visit to the Cape is remembered with pleasure.

We attended a Southern Africa Forum in Johannesburg between European and South African parliamentarians. The possibility was discussed of links between the Southern Africa region and the EEC, which would be loath to co-operate publicly with South Africa, as such.

Appreciation was expressed of your willingness and that of HMG to give the South African Government credit for reforms made and the more fundamental changes in prospect. Unfortunately, Pretoria's decision to consult black representatives through a Council separate from the President's Council (white, coloured and Asian) has brought deadlock and made the position of the coloured community even more difficult.

Delayed hopes and rising expectations can be potent causes of disorder. Not that one need doubt the South African Government's capacity and will to govern firmly and suppress revolt. The South African economy is, moreover, strong and moderation and non-violence still predominate, if precariously, among the urban blacks.

I do not say that Pretoria should, but am inclined to think that it will, go for the second alternative. No great decision will presumably be made until there either have, or have not, been changes in the Federal German Republic and the US. South Africa is concerned at the threat of UN sanctions, although they would hurt black Africa more.

South African Defence Force doctrine stresses the primacy of political and psychological over military factors in the struggle with SWAPO and there are many who wonder why South African conscripts should die for a territory already being separated from the Republic.

We saw the Foreign Minister, "Pik" Botha, when he was putting the final touches to his last letter to the UN Secretary General. That letter condemns the Organisation for its partiality but is conciliatory in the matter of new elections. Botha indicated to us that South Africa wished to extricate herself "with honour". He also said: "Send us Lord Soames and a British Force." The retiring Administrator-General made clear to us, as he had to the media, that he would like the "front line" states to contribute to an "African solution." He suggested that Mr. Mugabe might preside over a conference.

Whether or not HMG involves itself directly, there is one way in which British influence can be increased. In the Republic, there is a shortage of English teachers. In Namibia there is a desire to replace the present <u>lingua franca</u>, Afrikaans, by English. So far as Namibia is concerned, objection would be less likely to arise from South African officialdom than from the UN-dictated isolation of the territory. It seems absurd that we should not be able at least to have consular and cultural representation.

Be that as it may, there should not be serious international opposition to the propagation of English at the expense of the language spoken by the wicked Afrikaners.

I am sending a copy of this to Peter Carrington but have already written to Neil Marten and Richard Luce on the question of English teachers.

John Bigy Davison