



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

Agree general lines of attached draft message to P.W. Botha²⁴ October 1980 (to go from the Five Heads of Govt)?

It seems to me a reasonable message under all

Dear Michael,

the circumstances. Can we see

Namibia: Situation Report

The amendments expected in view of Mr. U's ideas. at X and

Brian Urquhart and his UN team will leave Pretoria on Saturday 25 October. It is still not certain what the outcome of their talks with the South African Government throughout this week will be. South African Ministers will consider today the UN proposal that the South African Government agree to set a date for implementation, and the kind of statement they might make to the UN to convey their agreement (which may or may not have been reached) on military questions and the measures offered by the UN to prove UN impartiality. They may seek to delay their definitive response to the UN until after the US election and the simultaneous ethnic elections inside Namibia, which will be an important test of white opinion. The principal internal leader (Dirk Mudge, DTA) has said publicly that independence might become feasible in 1981. Most important of all, Urquhart has floated the idea (which we have entertained for some time) that the UN might propose to the South Africans a deal whereby South Africa accepts a definite date for implementation of the UN plan, subject to agreement on composition of the UN force, in return for agreement on a conference to satisfy all concerned about the conduct of the elections. Urquhart has sought informal agreement that this proposal might be negotiable: next week in New York he will seek the agreement of the Five and the Front Line States: and then he will put it formally to the South Africans. At that moment Mr Waldheim wants us to exert maximum supporting pressure including a possible message from the Five Heads of Government to the South African Prime Minister.

I enclose the draft of such a message which has been recommended to capitals by the New York representatives of the Five. It is based on the provisional draft which we circulated without commitment yesterday (and which was sent to you under cover of Michael Arthur's letter of 23 October): discussion in New York has not produced

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major changes. The time is approaching when we shall need to do our utmost to bring the South Africans round. The knowledge that a fresh approach is being pursued vigorously by the UN and the Five may persuade the Africans to stay their hand in the Security Council. Mr Waldheim has asked for support at the highest possible level and our partners will probably wish to respond positively. Some minor points of phraseology in the present text are not improvements on our own version, but in general it is very much better than anything we could have expected from a draft produced by our partners. HM Ambassador at Pretoria has also suggested some useful points which we hope can be used in agreeing a final text.

It would be useful to know by Monday 27 October whether the Prime Minister agrees to the proposal for a message on the lines of the attached draft.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary was generally content with the previous version, and will also be seeing the current draft over the weekend.

Yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

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