

S Africa
Namibia
Subject

VRS



cc: FCO

(South Africa)

10 DOWNING STREET
PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T. 29A/81

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 February 1981

Dear Mr. President,

I was very glad to have your letter of 5 February with your thoughts about the way forward on Namibia.

I agree entirely with what you say about the harmful consequences of any move in the United Nations to press for mandatory sanctions against South Africa. As you know, it has always been our view that sanctions could not have the desired effect, but that they would do grave damage to the interests of many countries both in the West and in Africa, including in particular those of Britain and Botswana.

I can assure you of the British Government's continued commitment to the basic principles underlying all the efforts we have made in the past months and years to try to bring about a peaceful settlement of the Namibia problem: an end to bloodshed, and independence under a Government and system reflecting the wishes of the broadest possible spectrum of Namibian opinion, free from outside pressure, and under procedures acceptable to the international community. We wish to see an independent Namibia able to gain general international recognition and support.

/ Peter Carrington

DSS

Peter Carrington will be taking the opportunity of his visit to Nigeria this week to restate publicly this commitment, very much in the way you suggest. In the following week, he and I will be going together to Washington for consultations with the new American Administration, and Namibia will be high on the list of priorities for our discussions. We shall certainly be explaining to our American colleagues the importance we attach to the need for an early solution to this problem on the basis of the principles to which your Government and mine continue to subscribe.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Q. K. J. Masire