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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

13 September 1984

Dear Mr. Kinross.

Thank you for your letter of today's date about the six members of the United Democratic Front and Natal Indian Congress who have taken temporary refuge in the British consulate in Durban.

I understand that this group have sent a letter to the South African Minister of Law and Order making various demands relating to the conditions of their detention. The group has requested Her Majesty's Government to provide sanctuary and to facilitate the conduct of negotiations. I can assure you that from the moment we were first informed of the presence of this group at the Consulate, instructions were issued that they should not be required to leave the premises against their will. While it would not be right for HMG to act as an intermediary between them and the South African Government, they have lawyers who have been actively involved in this capacity, and with whom we are in touch.

Geoffrey Howe and his colleagues will, of course, be keeping a very close eye on the situation.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

EST.

The Rt. Hon. Neil Kinnock, M.P.