



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Prime Minister  
Received this  
evening. Draft reply  
requested for  
tomorrow.

C.D.P. 17/9.

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The Office of the Leader of  
the Opposition

17 September 1984

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 13 September regarding the six leaders of the United Democratic Front and the Natal Indian Congress who have taken refuge in the British consulate in Durban. I am naturally pleased that Her Majesty's Government has given sanctuary to these six individuals.

You will be aware, however, that the South African authorities have not withdrawn the detention orders which led these people to seek the protection and assistance of Her Majesty's Government. It is certain that if they leave the consulate offices the six will be re-arrested and detained without trial by the South African police.

You will recall that in my letter of 13 September I requested that Her Majesty's Government should respond positively to the appeal made by the six that the Government intervene with the South African authorities to prevent their being detained without trial or charge, and urged you to ensure that the Government communicate urgently to this end with the South African authorities. As you know, such intervention would be fully in line with the Declaration by the Ten on South Africa issued following the Ministerial meeting on 11 September. With that explicit expression of view by British and other Ministers in mind, I am writing now to renew my request. I am sure that the intervention of Her Majesty's Government would carry great weight with the South African authorities.

Cont'd/...

Finally, this afternoon I was fortunate to be able to meet a small delegation representing the six members of the United Democratic Front and the Natal Indian Congress who are inside the consulate. I understand that so far no Foreign Office Minister has been able to meet them. I would urge that following the preliminary meeting with Mr J Johnson of the Foreign Office, Mr Yacoob, Professor Coovadia and Mr Morobe should be received by a Minister for further discussions. I also hope that Her Majesty's Government can respond sympathetically to the requests which they have made on behalf of the six concerning physical conditions and access to a telephone in the consulate in Durban.

Yours sincerely

Neil Kinnock

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher PM

7 SEP 1984

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