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10 DOWNING STREET

4 September, 1985

From the Private Secretary

SOUTH AFRICA

During his meeting with the Prime Minister this afternoon, the Foreign Secretary mentioned the discussions which would take place next week with Ministers of the Ten on South Africa. It might be necessary, in the course of this, to agree to study without commitment possible measures against South Africa, taking account of the differing interests of Member States.

The Prime Minister said that she thought it would be a mistake to subscribe to the phrase "study measures" since this inevitably carried the implication that we might be prepared to take measures. It would be better to seek some vaguer formulation such as "consider ways in which Member States could respond to the present situation in South Africa having regard to their separate national positions". You will wish to take account of this in preparing briefing for the meeting.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Rachel Lomax (HM Treasury), John Mogg (Department of Trade and Industry) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(C.D. Powell)

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