

CONFIDENTIAL

CC SIR P. C



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 September 1985

Dear Charles,

Policy Towards South Africa

Thank you for your further letter of 24 September on the question of lifting our reserve on the package of restrictive measures against South Africa agreed by the Nine on 10 September.

On the first point which you mention it will be important to hold to the position that this would be a national measure. In fact, there has been no discussion in the Community about precisely what is meant by "the cessation of oil exports to the RSA". We can therefore stand on our view that this measure applies only to crude oil (it has been debated in the Dutch Parliament in these terms), and that our guidelines set out our national practice which we intend to maintain. The Department of Energy have confirmed that the existing guidelines apply only to UK North Sea crude oil. However, they have been expressed in Parliament as applying to indirect as well as direct contracts, though this is a trade which cannot be monitored. Mr Dart will be replying to your letter on these lines.

We note your second point on the withdrawal of Defence Attaches as well as your third point on the Prime Minister's concern about the style of the draft UK statement in Political Co-operation. I enclose a revised draft of this statement taking these concerns into account.

The changes to the draft statement in Political Co-operation as it relates to Defence Attaches means that there needs to be a corresponding change in the draft line for press and parliamentary use. I therefore enclose a slightly revised version of this draft line also.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (MOD), Rachel Lomax (HM Treasury), John Mogg (DTI), Geoff Dart (Department of Energy) and Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

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