



CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY MRS GERALDINE FERRARO :
29 APRIL

STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE (SDI)

POINTS TO MAKE

1. UK supports and hopes to share in US research. Camp David four points sound basis for future policy :

- (i) aim to achieve balance not superiority
- (ii) deployments of defences, in view of treaty obligations, a matter for negotiation;
- (iii) overall aim to enhance not undercut deterrence;
- (iv) negotiations to achieve security at lower levels of forces on both sides.

2. Research necessary to balance Soviet efforts. Russians have world's only ASAT and active ABM system; also large space capability and extensive BMD research programmes.

3. Ban/Freeze on BMD research in any case unverifiable. Reject simplistic approach that calls for space 'demilitarisation' or 'moratorium' on space weapons. Ignores beneficial military uses of space (eg monitoring of arms control agreements).

/BACKGROUND



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4. Mrs Ferraro is likely to take a strongly anti-SDI line. The 1984 Democratic Party platform accused President Reagan of attempting to create a ''vulnerable and provocative shield'' that would alienate the Allies, kill the ABM Treaty and provoke a new arms race. It dismissed the idea of general protection of population as technically not feasible. The platform also called for a freeze on nuclear weapon levels, but stopped short of precluding implementation of the 1979 ''twin-track'' decision on INF.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
24 APRIL 1985



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POINTS TO MAKE

SOUTH AFRICA

1. System inherently unstable. Danger for West. Violent collapse would serve only Soviet interests.

2. Present period politically difficult. Rising black expectations and frustrations; economic recession; Government fearful of right-wing backlash and determined to preserve law and order.

3. Some encouraging signs (suspension of forced removals; decision to repeal Mixed Marriages Act and Section 16 of the Immorality Act; apparent acceptance of large permanent urban black population). But Uitenhage shootings and continuing unrest emphasise urgency of need to address fundamental problem of black political rights.

4. Internal (economic, social) rather than external (sanctions) forces most effective levers for change. West must remain engaged economically and politically, encouraging progress while condemning repression.

5. Likely outcome of disinvestment campaign in the US? Adoption of measures by US could encourage radicals at UN interested in wider measures.



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SOUTH AFRICA

1. Moves towards limited reform following President Botha's speech on 25 January (when he called for a wider dialogue with blacks) have been overshadowed by continuing serious violence in black townships and particularly by the shooting dead of 19 blacks at Uitenhage on 21 March. This led to strong international reaction. South African Government's tough law and order stand and moves against opposition movements (16 United Democratic Front leaders face treason charges on 20 May) may further polarise opinion and undermine already limited prospects for any real dialogue with blacks.

2. Positive moves following President Botha's speech included suspension of forced removals from "black spots" pending a review of the resettlement policy on a case-by-case basis; the extension of leasehold rights to blacks in townships near Capetown and promise of freehold rights to some urban blacks in other areas; eventual development of squatters camp at Crossroads (Capetown) as permanent residential site; decision to repeal Mixed Marriages Act and Section 16 of the Immorality Act in current Parliamentary session; possible changes later this year to influx control legislation.

3. Increasing violence may have put further impetus behind moves to introduce legislation in US for limited sanctions. A number of Bills. The Gray/Kennedy Bill introduced in the Senate and the House of Representatives calls for bans on new investment and bank loans to South Africa and on the sale of computer technology and krugerrands. In some proposals (eg the Mathias Bill adopted by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee) measures would be delayed pending clear evidence that the South African Government was embarking on a programme of fundamental reform.