

SUBJECT
cc MASTER

CONFIDENTIAL



file 46
e fr PC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 June 1986

SOUTH AFRICA: PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH
MR. LUBBERS AND MR. VAN DEN BROEK

The Prime Minister met Mr. Lubbers and Mr. Van Den Broek early this morning to discuss the handling of the South African item on the second day of the European Council. The Foreign Secretary was also present.

Mr. Lubbers said that an approach was needed which would reflect adequately the broad spread of views within the Community. There was clearly no difficulty on positive measures or on the Community's aims, such as an end to the state of emergency and the release of Mandela. He also thought that there was general support for a Presidency mission to South Africa. The Prime Minister interjected that this would have a better chance of making progress if it was limited to the Foreign Secretary alone. Mr. Lubbers agreed. —

Mr. Lubbers continued that in the Presidency's view, a mission would succeed only if it was accompanied by a firm decision by the Twelve to take certain restrictive measures unless the Community's aims were achieved within a specific period, say two months. The measures which they had in mind were a ban on fruit and vegetables, coal, iron and steel and gold coins, to which might be added a ban on direct investment which had been proposed by Signor Craxi.

/Chancellor Kohl

CONFIDENTIAL

Chancellor Kohl had also mentioned the possibility that the Community might try to organise a meeting outside South Africa between all the interested parties, that is the various black representatives and the South African Government. He personally was sceptical.

Mr. Lubbers said that his impression was that Chancellor Kohl was ready for a compromise on the lines he had indicated as was M. Chirac. The Presidency would, therefore, propose a text including decisions on restrictive measures for immediate adoption, although with implementation delayed for a fixed period in order to allow the Twelve to assess the results of a mission to South Africa. If agreement could not be reached, he believed that the great majority of Member States would implement measures on these lines individually. He was bound to say that it was the Presidency's intention to put the matter to a vote if necessary.

The Prime Minister rehearsed the objections to reaching a decision now to implement measures before a mission went to South Africa. This would be seen by the South African Government as an ultimatum which would probably lead them to refuse to accept a mission at all. She made it crystal clear that she was not prepared to accept a ban on fruit and vegetables and wine. She doubted whether Chancellor Kohl's position was as flexible as Mr. Lubbers suggested. She also pointed out that the Presidency text made no provision for consultations with other industrialised countries. This was an essential element. The Prime Minister handed to Mr. Lubbers a text of her own which would provide for consultation with other industrialised countries on further measures which might be needed, covering in particular a ban on direct investment, on coal, iron, steel and gold coins. She made clear that a ban on direct investment would have to be voluntary.

/Mr. Lubbers

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Lubbers and Mr. Van Den Broek made clear that they did not believe that such a text went far enough. It was suggested that the Foreign Secretary and Mr. Van Den Broek should try to arrive at an acceptable compromise.

Subsequently, the Prime Minister showed her text to Chancellor Kohl and to the Portuguese Prime Minister, both of whom agreed to it.

CHARLES POWELL

A. C. Galsworthy, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.