



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Prime Minister

South Africa

I have looked again at the OD paper after your telephone call last night. It's typically soggy FCO stuff and I see

why it irritates you.

But there's nothing in it to worry you or to contradict your line.

Bernard and I have been through the press

this morning. It is strongly supportive of your line. 'Downing Street' is putting out

the view that the Commonwealth meeting is not a deadline, & that we are still on the same course.

The colleagues will see this, read the editorials and absorb the opinion polls. They should be in



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no doubt what is good for them.

I have told Bernard that our aim should be to move quickly after Cabinet to put out the line: Cabinet united behind Prime Minister's position. We shall want to get this on the 1 p.m. news.

All this seems to me to point to avoiding a set-to in OD. A bit of gentle scorn for the better bits of the Foreign Secretary's paper, and the conclusion that you intend to continue to stick to your present line, as agreed at the European Council.

Could I please have 2 minutes after the hand-dresser - before OD?  
CDP