



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 July 1988

*Jean M. Kinosh*

Thank you for your letter of 19 July. I fully recognise the scale of deprivation in Southern Africa caused, in part, by war.

The authors of the UNICEF report you sent me are right to say "above all the children of Southern Africa need peace". We are doing our utmost to encourage solutions to the conflicts in Mozambique and Angola. The parties to the negotiations on Angola and Namibia have announced an important step forward in the search for a comprehensive regional settlement. Mozambique and South Africa are making progress in their efforts to revive the Nkomati Accord. Neither process would long survive the sanctions which you urge the international community to adopt.

Comprehensive mandatory sanctions would propel the region downward into a vicious cycle of increased suffering without bringing the end of apartheid any nearer. Sanctions against South Africa would, in effect, be sanctions against Southern Africa. The losses inflicted would far exceed the capacity of the outside world to help. The consequences - notably for children - would be disastrous.

The answer lies not in sanctions but in the action we are taking to encourage change in South Africa, to promote peace in the region and to help its economic development. We are giving emergency relief and long-term economic and security assistance to the region - worth well over

£1 billion since 1980. In South Africa itself, our significant programme of help in the black townships is making a substantial contribution to the ability of black people to get education, to acquire technical and professional skills and to improve their communities. Our policy is both practical and positive and we intend to build on it.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

---