

*cc:PC*

610



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 June 1987

*Dear Charles,*

VENICE ECONOMIC SUMMIT: SOUTH AFRICA

Thank you for your letter of 3 June enclosing the message to the Prime Minister from Mr Mulroney. The Foreign Secretary agrees that the Prime Minister should reply promptly in the manner you propose. I enclose a draft.

The Canadian High Commission delivered a copy of Mr Mulroney's message in parallel to us yesterday: we told them firmly that we regarded the proposal for a declaration at Venice as unwise.

As foreshadowed in Tony Galsworthy's letter of 1 June, our Posts have taken action in the capitals of the Summit Seven countries reiterating our opposition to any statement on South Africa at Venice. The Germans have confirmed that Chancellor Kohl is opposed to any declaration on South Africa at the Summit and has given his officials instructions to this effect. The French are also opposed to a declaration. The other participants are less categorical: while they will not themselves press for a statement they would be ready to consider one. We have sent further instructions to our posts in Bonn and Paris to get them to encourage the Germans and French to make their opposition to any statement known to Mr Mulroney in advance of the Summit. Our posts in Washington, Tokyo and Rome will take supporting action.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to the Private Secretary to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours ever,*  
*L Parker*

(L Parker)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:  
Prime Minister  
DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Reference  
PM2AAD

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney

PC, MP

Prime Minister of Canada

*to [unclear]*  
*[unclear]*

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT .....

Thank you for your letter of 1 June about the handling of South Africa at the Venice Summit.

As my Personal Representative has already explained at the meetings of Sherpas, I do not believe that it would be helpful to issue a statement or launch an initiative on South Africa at the Summit. I ~~fully~~ share your <sup>wish</sup> ~~desire~~ to promote peaceful dialogue in South Africa. But it is precisely <sup>for this reason</sup> ~~because I do~~ so that I doubt the value of declaratory diplomacy of this kind at this time.

The value of any declaration or initiative can only be judged against the results it is likely to have on the ground in South Africa. I believe that the impact of such a statement and initiative at the present moment <sup>risks being</sup> ~~would be~~ seriously counter-productive.

Enclosures flag(s) .....

The South African Government would regard it as a further attempt to impose foreign prescriptions. Bolstered by the white election results, <sup>the strong likelihood must be that</sup> they would almost certainly reject it out of hand. This would then make the task of bringing them to accept dialogue in the future that much more difficult. Elsewhere in the white community, the small minority of whites to the left of the National Party, such as the Progressive Federal Party and the "Independents" would be reluctant to risk associating themselves with foreign initiatives at this juncture since this might set back their political recovery. I believe too that the majority of blacks would dismiss a statement as largely irrelevant to the real political situation as they see it after the election. Our own recent contacts show no wish by them at present for further Western declarations or mediating initiatives. Moreover the choice of intermediaries when the time comes for promoting dialogue will need very careful thought - a purely Western group may well not be ~~the best~~ appropriate.

while South Africa is a fairly one of the subjects which we shall need to discuss,

<sup>you do not believe</sup>  
 In short, I remain quite convinced that the Summit is ~~not~~ the place for a statement or a new initiative. I hope very much that you will not press for either of them. ~~There is in any case a great deal else to be discussed at Venice. I too look forward to our discussions there.~~

I look forward to seeing you & your wife next week.

Recon pol

economic summit

PT 22