

CONFIDENTIAL



RLC
MRM
cc PC

Meeting Record

TPM 9

Subject: CC MASTER

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

15 February 1990

From the Private Secretary

SOUTH AFRICA

The Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary had a brief discussion this morning about developments in South Africa. The Prime Minister congratulated the Foreign Secretary on the handling of yesterday's debate in the House.

The Foreign Secretary reported that the Attorney's preliminary advice was that we were justified in taking unilateral action to terminate the voluntary ban on investment in South Africa, once we had consulted other Community governments. He would be doing this at the Foreign Affairs Council next week.

The Foreign Secretary said that he had noted the Prime Minister's interest in Mr. Bernie Grant MP's suggestion that the Government should make some modest financial assistance available to different groups in South Africa, to help them prepare for negotiations with the South African Government. This raised a problem which we were already encountering over Eastern Europe: we had to find a way to avoid any allegations of political bias in giving such assistance. One possible way would be to create an independent institute or other body which would consider applications for help of this sort and ensure that they were handled in an entirely objective and balanced way. The Prime Minister said that she saw merit in this approach, although the membership and constitution of such an independent body would be a delicate matter.

CHARLES POWELL

J. S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL