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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

28 February 1990

Dear Mr. Grant,

When we met on 13 February I agreed to consider your interesting suggestion for an aid programme to help the various different political groups in South Africa prepare for negotiations with the South African Government. You proposed modest assistance in the form of training and equipment.

We already have an extensive programme of assistance to black South Africans. We also contribute to EC programmes. Altogether, we are spending some £40 million in the period 1987-92 on aid which is intended to help prepare the black community to play their full part in a post-apartheid South Africa. The question of aid for political purposes, whether in South Africa or elsewhere, raises wider issues. It is not a normal function of our Aid Vote. I do nevertheless agree that there is a case for practical assistance to those who have previously been excluded from the political process. We are now considering what we might be able to offer. I hope that it will be possible to establish a scheme soon, providing practical help in a non-discriminatory way. I shall arrange for you to be kept informed.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Dalrymple

Bernie Grant, Esq., M.P.



MS

ci: Atd

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*From the Private Secretary*

28 February 1990

AID FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES

The Prime Minister has written to Mr Bernie Grant, M.P., in the terms proposed. I enclose a copy of her letter. You will see that a sentence has been added promising to keep him informed. The Prime Minister would, I think, be grateful if Mr Waldegrave would take this on.

Charles Powell

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