

SECRET

cc: Blair

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PRIME MINISTER

BILATERAL WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY

Points which should come up are:

(i) Contacts with the ANC and UNITA

The Foreign Secretary will press you hard to agree that Mrs. Chalker should meet the ANC in Lusaka next month. He will argue that she cannot visit Zambia without meeting the ANC: that failure to see them will be interpreted as a step back in our policy: and that particularly against the background of recent discouraging developments in South Africa and the (likely) execution of the Sharpeville Six, a meeting would be a useful signal both to the South African government and to world opinion. He will continue to argue against any Ministerial contact with UNITA and for continuance of our present policy on Angola.

I have to say that I think you are being 'tested' on the ANC. In a way it is a re-run of the FCO argument on sanctions: we have to go along, otherwise international opinion won't like us. The only message which contact with the ANC will send South Africa at this juncture is one that even we should now be disregarded. Your influence with them will be eroded, and with it our capacity to play a helpful role over Angola. If Mrs. Chalker cannot then go to Zambia, so be it: I do not see a visit as vital.

As regards UNITA, I doubt that you will budge the Foreign Secretary at this stage (especially if you are veto-ing contact with the ANC). But you will want to make clear that in your view we are being sidelined from playing a useful role over Angola. You will also want to point him towards trying to develop a joint approach between the UK, Germany and Portugal as the three countries with influence on South Africa.

The earlier papers are in the folder.

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(ii) Inward State visits

The FCO are still agitating for three a year. You will want to make clear that you think two quite enough and want to drop the November one (which is always the most inconvenient). If he argues that The Queen could live with three, the answer is that she could equally live with two. However, there is no reason to object to more guest of government visits (which are less time-consuming for you). There is a note in the folder.

(iii) Relations with Chancellor Kohl

We need to do some repair work on relations with Chancellor Kohl and the Germans more generally. You will want to discuss with the Foreign Secretary how to go about this. It needs action at several levels, and will probably require in due course a bilateral between you and Kohl. We might start with a session between me and Teltschik.

(iv) IRA/Gibraltar

The Foreign Secretary will want to bring you up to date on co-ordination of follow-up to the Gibraltar shootings, in particular preparations for the inquest.

C.D.P.

(C. D. POWELL)

16 March 1988