



New Zealand High Commission

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SUBJECT. *CGP*

PRIME MINISTER'S

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PERSONAL MESSAGE

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Reference:

1 August 1986

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher FRS MP
Prime Minister
LONDON

*Prime Minister
Mr. Lange's views
on New Zealand
CGP
1/2.*

Dear Prime Minister

I have been asked to convey to you the following message from our Prime Minister.

"My dear Prime Minister

A couple of months ago we discussed the question of economic measures against South Africa. I said then that New Zealand had little trade with South Africa and that we would not presume to lecture others who have much more.

I haven't lectured anyone since and don't intend to start now. I know that you are firmly opposed to comprehensive sanctions. But I formed the impression in June, since reinforced by some of your recent statements, that you would be prepared to consider some of the selective measures listed in the second Nassau list, or similar ones, at an appropriate time. I venture to hope, and would urge, that you could agree to such measures at next week's meeting of Commonwealth leaders.

In doing so I am moved at least as much by concern for the future of the Commonwealth as by the need for concerted action to encourage peaceful change in South Africa.

On the latter point I would only say that the reactions of the South African Government to the EPG negotiating concept and (from press accounts) to Sir Geoffrey Howe's mission don't suggest that it is ready to start negotiations with representative black leaders. It is not likely that the South African Government, in the absence of economic measures, will move towards the objectives on which we are all agreed. Whether it will do so if selective measures are imposed only time can tell. I would myself see nothing inconsistent in taking such measures while continuing to promote dialogue.

But as I have already mentioned, I am also concerned about the effects on Commonwealth unity if next week's review meeting is unable to reach agreement to impose additional measures. Such an outcome would, I fear, tend to isolate the British Government, make moderate governments less amenable to compromise and limit both the useful role that the Commonwealth has been able to play in world affairs and even the practical benefits that Commonwealth arrangements have brought to all its members, especially the smaller among them. No good could possibly come of this.

I fully understand that in considering your approach to the review meeting you must take Britain's wider-ranging interests into account. I can only speak as a New Zealander, a member of the Commonwealth and one who has always had a concern for Britain's standing and influence. It is from that standpoint that I urge that Britain agree to the imposition of selective measures against South Africa.

Yours sincerely

David Lange"

Yours sincerely

N D Walter

(N D Walter)
Acting High Commissioner

