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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 February 1986

Dear Mr. Barber.

Many thanks for your letter of 19 February about the progress made with the scheme to bring black South African teachers of English to Durham. I am delighted to hear that this is going well and that both Government and industry have got together to help. I hope you will keep me abreast of developments in the future.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Roy and Halima

Dr. J.P. Barber, J.P.

JK

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19th February 1986

Mrs M. Thatcher,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London.

Dear Prime Minister,

Some months ago following a meeting at Chequers on South Africa you were kind enough to give your support to a proposal to bring black South African teachers of English to Durham. Following the receipt of your letter I started to work on what we have come to call "The South Africa Schoolteacher Fellowship scheme".

I am pleased to say that the scheme has received an excellent response from both the Government and private business. So far we have confirmed funding for ten fellowships. These are made up of three from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, two from the British Council (using ODA funds), and five from private sources - Barclays, BP, ICI, Standard Chartered, and Unilever. British Airways have promised to help with air fares and Shell International are also showing interest in giving support. The British Council in South Africa will be recruiting the schoolteacher fellows on behalf of the University.

In promoting the scheme I have received excellent support from members of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office - particularly Mr. J. Wilde and Mr. Anthony Reeve.

Last week the Senate of the University gave its whole-hearted backing to the scheme. In more general terms this was a sign of Durham's efforts to take initiatives despite the difficulties that face all universities. We are now hoping that we shall catch a much bigger fish by attracting the scientists from Greenwich to come here.

May I thank you for your support for the South African scheme which was of great importance in persuading others to give it their backing.

Yours sincerely,
James Barber
James Barber



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