

File
OAI/ALU
cepc



10 DOWNING STREET

4 March 1986

From the Private Secretary

SOUTH AFRICA

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary had a brief word this morning about South Africa. The Prime Minister spoke on the lines of my letter to you of 3 March of her dissatisfaction about the way in which the recent representations of the South African Government were handled. The Foreign Secretary stressed the importance both of preserving our unique influence with President Botha and of sustaining the credibility with the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group and with black African opinion.

The Foreign Secretary mentioned that we had information from Dr. Crocker that the South Africans would shortly set a date for withdrawal from Namibia in accordance with Security Council Resolution 435. The Prime Minister commented that if this was the case, and depending on what riders or conditions were attached it would probably be appropriate for her to send a prompt message of congratulations to President Botha.

(CHARLES POWELL)

L. V. Appleyard Esq, CMG.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

[Handwritten signature]