



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 May 1986

Dear Secretary-General,

Thank you for your letter of 16 May with your proposals for the review of progress towards the objectives set out in the Nassau Accord and of the work of the Eminent Persons Group. I welcome the informal arrangements you propose and confirm my agreement to the dates, venue and Chairmanship.

I agree that the report by the Eminent Persons Group will be of central importance to the review. I have been impressed by their hard work and tenacity. I believe that the Group was right to take the difficult decision to carry on after last week's military incursions by South Africa into the territories of three Commonwealth countries, which as you know I have condemned vigorously. Their mission must be given every encouragement to succeed, despite this setback. The alternative to a peaceful solution in South Africa through dialogue is increasing bitterness and violence: a prospect so unacceptable that we must do everything possible to assist the Group so long as there is any prospect of progress.

Whatever the outcome, we owe the members of the Group a gratitude to upholding the Commonwealth tradition or reaching out for peaceful solutions. I am sure that their hard work will not have been in vain.

BM

I am content that you should inform fellow Commonwealth Heads of Government and announce the details of the review in the manner you propose. I look forward to hearing further details nearer the time of the meeting.

Y
ours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher
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His Excellency Mr. Shridath S. Ramphal, A.C., Kt., C.M.G., G.C.