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PRIME MINISTER

Chancellor Kohl's Private Secretary telephoned this morning to say that he had just seen Malcolm Fraser and General Obasanjo, who had shown him a copy of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group Report. Chancellor Kohl wanted you to know that he was anxious to avoid any substantive reaction to this until he had had a chance to co-ordinate views with you. He hoped that this might be done on a discreet channel direct with his office. I said that I knew you would appreciate this offer.

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CDD

Charles Powell

10 June 1986

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10 DOWNING STREET

10 June 1986

From the Private Secretary

Dear Sir,

I should record that Horst Teltschik in Chancellor Kohl's Office telephoned me this morning to say that Chancellor Kohl had received Malcolm Fraser and General Obasanjo. They had presented him with a copy of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group Report, together with (so he said) an additional document dealing with possible further economic sanctions.

The Chancellor wanted the Prime Minister to know that he was anxious to avoid any substantive comment until he had had a chance to compare notes with her. He would like to do so direct between No. 10 and his office.

I know of course that the Foreign Secretary has already discussed this matter with Herr Genscher and there will be further discussions among E.C. Foreign Ministers next Monday. We must not confuse lines of communication. But I think that in this case the Prime Minister would want to reply to Chancellor Kohl direct, in parallel with whatever action is being taken on normal channels. I should be grateful if you would bear this in mind.

*Yours sincerely,
Charles Powell*

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Charles Powell

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.