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20 June 1986

From the Private Secretary

Jan Qlin,

SOUTH AFRICA

I had a talk on the telephone this morning with Horst Teltschik in Chancellor Kohl's Office, as earlier agreed at the Prime Minister's meeting with the Foreign Secretary.

I asked Teltschik about the various German ideas which we had seen reported, in particular that there might be a four-power meeting on South Africa. Teltschik said that these ideas had been discussed between the Chancellor and a number of Christian Democrat deputies and the Chancellor had promised to think about them. But they were certainly not formal German proposals and there was no intention on the Chancellor's part to take any initiative before the European Council in The Hague.

I told Teltschik that the Prime Minister would like to speak to the Chancellor on the telephone on Monday. I thought that she would suggest to him that the aim at the European Council should be to have a full discussion of possible steps in relation to South Africa, covering both a diplomatic initiative, further measures to aid South African blacks and inevitable measures designed to bring pressure to bear on the South African Government. But no decisions would be taken on specific measures. Rather the incoming Presidency would be charged with carrying out consultations with the United States, Japan and other OECD countries and with carrying out a mission to South Africa itself. The results of this could then be assessed at the Foreign Affairs Council in July. Teltschik said that he thought this approach would appeal very much to the Chancellor. He was "not interested in agreeing to sanctions at The Hague". He would explain our thinking to the Chancellor in advance of the Prime Minister's telephone conversation with him on Monday.

I said that I should mention that the Prime Minister was particularly firmly opposed to the proposal to ban imports of fruit, wine and vegetables from South Africa because such a measure would hit hard at poor rural blacks. Teltschik said that the Chancellor was of the same view, although the Foreign Ministry was pressing hard for this measure. The Chancellor also thought it was hypocritical

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for Western countries to ban imports of products which would cause maximum damage to blacks in South Africa while continuing to import the strategic raw materials which they needed.

I told Teltschik that the Prime Minister might propose a bilateral between herself and the Chancellor in The Hague on Thursday morning. This could be settled when they spoke on the telephone. Teltschik said he would mention this too to the Chancellor.

I am copying this letter to Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

yes 21/11/71
Colin Budd

(C. D. POWELL)

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