

*Subject cc Master*

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*cc PC*

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

20 June 1986

*Dear Colin,*

**SOUTH AFRICA**

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary had some discussion this morning of the handling of South Africa at next week's European Council.

The Prime Minister said that her strong preference would be to avoid decisions on measures next week. She could envisage a scenario under which there was discussion of possible measures with decisions deferred while consultations were carried out with the United States, Japan, Canada and other OECD countries; and while the Foreign Secretary visited South Africa in his Presidency role. Such a visit would stand no chance of being productive in the immediate future, given the current state of emergency, but might be envisaged in the second half of July. The results could then be assessed by the July Foreign Affairs Council. This would have the advantage of bringing the timing of any decisions in the European Community closer to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and thus reduce the pressure on us to consider two separate sets of measures. She would like to see us work hard for such an outcome, particularly with the Germans and Portuguese. In talking to the South African Government, it was very important not to give them the impression that we saw one man-one vote in a unitary state as the only possible outcome of negotiations between them and black representatives. Our task was to encourage the process of negotiations and make clear that we could see a number of possible outcomes. The Foreign Secretary said that he thought that it would be difficult to avoid decisions at the European Council: the majority of Member States clearly wanted them. Moreover it was arguable that we had a better chance of getting away with harmless measures at the European Council next week than we would following an unsuccessful mission to South Africa. He was bound to say that the odds against a breakthrough during a visit to South Africa must be high. He agreed with the Prime Minister on the need to encourage positive measures, both in terms of further aid for blacks in South Africa and diplomatic initiatives. He would therefore speak to a number of Foreign Minister colleagues, in particular Herr Genscher, to urge that the matter should be handled at the European Council in the way that the Prime Minister had suggested. It was agreed that I would speak in parallel to

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Herr Teltschik and to Monsieur Bujon. The Prime Minister said that she would try to telephone Chancellor Kohl early next week and might arrange a bilateral with him on the Thursday morning before the opening of the European Council in The Hague.

The Foreign Secretary raised the possibility of contact at Ministerial level with Mr. Tambo when he visited London. The Minister of State, Mrs. Chalker, would be the appropriate person. The Prime Minister said that it would be very important to speak firmly to Tambo about the need to suspend violence and to take part in negotiations with the South African Government. We should need to stress this in commenting publicly on the meeting.

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

Yours sincerely  
C. D. Powell

(C. D. POWELL)

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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