



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1-19 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0ET
Telephone (Direct dialling) 01-215 5422
GTN 215
(Switchboard) 01-215 7877

PS / Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

CONFIDENTIAL

24 June 1986

Prime Minister

CDP 24/6

Colin Budd Esq
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AL

Dear Colin,

SOUTH AFRICA

During his visit to Germany today, my Secretary of State met Herr Franz-Joseph Strauss in Munich.

Herr Strauss said that he had arranged for a former Managing Director of BMW in Pretoria to go to South Africa to see both P W Botha and Pik Botha. His instructions were to give a complete analysis of likely moves to reduce apartheid, with a timetable. Herr Strauss said that he was in favour of an immediate end to social apartheid, but wanted a more gradual transition on political apartheid. Herr Strauss' emissary was still in South Africa but was due to return shortly to report to Herr Strauss.

In the meantime, Herr Strauss had spoken to P W Botha, who had said that there was likelihood of mass unemployment in South Africa if sanctions were imposed. Herr Strauss has told Mr Botha that the South African Government should admit its mistakes and carry out reform.

Herr Strauss said that once his emissary had returned from South Africa, he would seek to persuade the German Foreign Minister that he had no authorisation to agree to any measures at the forthcoming European Council, and that there would need to be a full discussion in Bonn before Germany could agree to any measures being imposed.

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My Secretary of State simply took note of what Herr Strauss had said and stressed the need to keep a co-ordinated line in the Community.

I am copying this letter to Charles Powell (No.10) and to Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

Michael

MICHAEL GILBERTSON
Private Secretary

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