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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 July 1986

SOUTH AFRICA

Sir Laurens van der Post telephoned me this morning to stress a point which he thought he had not emphasised vigorously enough to the Foreign Secretary, namely that Mandela was not just a prisoner of the South African Government, but also of the ANC. There were good reasons to think that the ANC preferred to have Mandela in jail. He had information that Mandela's Indian lawyer based in Lusaka, working with Mrs. Mandela, was insisting that Mandela should not see Sir Geoffrey Howe even though Mandela himself would wish to do so. Sir Laurens therefore hopes that the Foreign Secretary will do all he can while in Lusaka to persuade President Kaunda to overcome the malign influence of those in the ANC who wish to block a meeting between him and Mandela.

Charles Powell

A. C. Galsworthy, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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MR. POWELL

~~Mrs. Ryder~~

Thank you. Please
CDP 1/7

encourage him to
telephone me if
NOR is anything
important in the
meanwhile

SIR LAURENS VAN DER POST - SOUTH AFRICA

I spoke to Laurens as you suggested this morning. His reaction to the Prime Minister's triumph in The Hague was that it was "the best that could be done", and he felt that a great deal could come out of the Foreign Secretary's visit to South Africa. He reiterated that any appeasement is out of the question and that there should be no compromise as far as sanctions are concerned. If we start on sanctions, it will be the end of South Africa.

As I mentioned, he would like to come in and see the Prime Minister, preferably early next week. But I will go back to him in a couple of days and tell him that it would be better if he came in around the middle of July, having produced some thoughts for the mini Summit at the beginning of August.

CR.

Caroline Ryder

1 July 1986

for the file

I spoke to
Laurens &
offered him
21 July.

CR.

2/7.