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CCODA

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

12 August 1986

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 18 July about the provision of help for non-white South Africans.

The Prime Minister entirely agrees that the training and education of non-white South Africans is of the greatest importance to the future of that country, and she fully shares your views on the need for positive measures, as distinct from negative ones.

The British Government has itself been running a training and assistance programme of this kind since 1979; we announced an expansion of it last autumn, and we now propose to make an additional £12 million available to expand it further. In more detail, the position is as follows.

Our existing programme now amounts to £1 million a year, and is administered through the Overseas Development Administration and the British Council. We do not distribute this sum in cash grants; instead, we use it to finance the training in Britain of about 100 non-white South Africans, mainly in the field of teacher education. We regard this as a particularly important field, given that the kind of education provided for non-whites in South Africa does not equip them for professional or other influential positions. We also assist a number of community projects within South Africa, with the help of a small number of specialists appointed under our technical cooperation programme.

Recently we have taken steps to expand this help. First, we told our Commonwealth partners at the Nassau Conference last October that we proposed to use £0.5 million a year from the money saved by Britain's withdrawal from UNESCO to provide postgraduate training in Britain for non-white South Africans and to contribute to a comparable international scheme to be run by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Second, the Prime Minister announced in Parliament on 1 July that we propose to provide an additional £15 million over 5 years for assistance in Southern Africa. £12 million

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of this will be used to help non-white South Africans: it will permit us to offer some 80 scholarships a year for undergraduate courses in Britain and will also enable us to provide undergraduate training within South Africa and to mount other activities there in the educational and social field.

Meanwhile the European Community is planning a parallel programme of social and community action within South Africa to be undertaken through various voluntary organisations. The Commission have already set aside some £6 million from the 1986 budget for this purpose and there are proposals to provide substantially more thereafter. We are keeping in close touch with the planning of these activities, not least because as a Member State of the Community Britain will be meeting some 20 per cent of their cost.

I should add that other countries have their own programmes aimed at improving the position of non-white South Africans. For example, the United States Government plans to spend some \$45 million for this purpose over the next 2 financial years.

In short, there is already substantial help on offer from Britain, and from other governments and organisations. On top of this there are within the private sector (to which you rightly refer) many employers in South Africa who are promoting programmes to equip their non-white staff for managerial and supervisory positions.

There remains the question of coordination, which you mention in your letter. The Government agrees that this is important and we are taking steps to ensure there is an adequate level of coordination as between the various activities that I have mentioned. But if we were to seek to institutionalise such cooperation through setting up committees and the like, it might run the risk of imposing a brake rather than a spur.

The Prime Minister remains grateful for your interest, and I should like to suggest that you should keep in touch with the Overseas Development Administration, whose Principal Education Adviser, Dr. Iredale, would be glad to hear from you after he returns from leave at the end of this month.

TIMOTHY FLESHER

Dr. J. P. Barber, J.P.

cc ODA
NMA17th August 1986.

Dear Mr. Flesher,

Thank you for your letter of
12th August ^{at 11.00} which has been forwarded to me
here, where I am spending a few weeks away from Durham

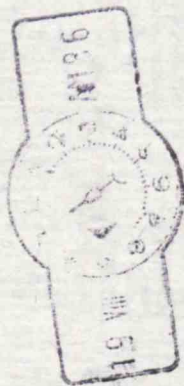
I was very grateful for the information
you gave about the increased government support
for black South Africans. As you will appreciate
it falls short of the broader approach I had
proposed, but I shall certainly contact Dr.
Inedale next month.

Again my thanks for the information
you have given me.

Yours sincerely,

James Barber (BARBER)

S. Africa : Relatrans Pt. 13





CF Ros

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
ELAND HOUSE
STAG PLACE LONDON SW1E 5DH
Telephone 01-213 5409

From the Minister.

11 August 1986

Charles Powell Esq
10 Downing Street
Whitehall
LONDON SW1

*pse type
to PS say*

Dear Charles,

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 11 August to Colin Budd, enclosing a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Dr Barber of Durham University about help for non-white South Africans. As you know, Sir Geoffrey Howe is away and I am therefore responding direct on Mr Raison's behalf.

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... I enclose a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature on her return. This has been prepared in consultation with the Diplomatic Wing of the FCO. It deals with the wider picture, as raised by Dr Barber, rather than with the detailed question of training in Britain in regard to which Dr Barber has already offered help from his University. We would like however to continue to make use of his goodwill and enthusiasm and have therefore suggested (last sentence of the draft) that he might like to keep in touch with us.

We have not been able to trace copies of the previous exchange of letters between Dr Barber and the Prime Minister. You might therefore wish to check your own copies of that exchange against the enclosed draft, in case anything in the latter overlaps, or is at variance with, what is now proposed.

*Yours sincerely
Martin Dinham*

(M J Dinham)
Private Secretary

DRAFT: minute/letter/teletype/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: The Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: Dr J P Barber JP MA PhD
Hatfield College
Durham
DH1 3RQ

Your Reference

Copies to:

CAJAHJ

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

The PM has asked me to

(Thank you for your letter of 18 July about the provision of help for non-white South Africans.

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Re PM

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The British Government has itself been running a training and assistance programme of this kind since 1979; we announced an expansion of it last autumn, and we now propose to make an additional £12 million available to expand it further. In more detail, the position is as follows.

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/Recently

Enclosures—flag(s).....

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Second, ^{the PM} I announced in Parliament on 1 July that we propose to provide an additional £15 million over five years for assistance in Southern Africa. £12 million of this will be used to help non-white South Africans: it will permit us to offer some eighty scholarships a year for undergraduate courses in Britain and will also enable us to provide undergraduate training within South Africa and to mount other activities there in the educational and social field.

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There remains the question of coordination, which you mention in your letter. ^{The Government} ~~I~~ agrees that this is important and we are taking steps to ensure there is an adequate level of coordination as between the various activities that I have mentioned. But ~~I think that~~ if we were to seek to institutionalise such cooperation through setting up committees and the like, it might run the risk of imposing a brake rather than a spur.

Re pm

I remain grateful for your interest, and I should like to suggest that you should keep in touch with the Overseas Development Administration, whose Principal Education Adviser, Dr Iredale, would be glad to hear from you after he returns from leave at the end of this month.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 August 1986

18/7/86
I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Dr. Barber, Master of Hatfield College, Durham. Dr. Hatfield has been very helpful over a scheme for South African Schoolteacher Fellowships. He now proposes a major development programme for Black South Africans.

I should be grateful for a draft reply.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Martin Dinahm (Overseas Development Administration).

CHARLES POWELL

C.R. Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Master
J.P. BARBER
J.F. A., Ph.D.

JPB/cac



HATFIELD COLLEGE
DURHAM DH1 3RQ
Telephone 64261-2

18th July 1986

Mrs M. Thatcher,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London W1

c)
J.P.?

R21/7

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

at Hat PTE

Thank you for your kind letter about the South African Schoolteacher Fellowships. I apologise for burdening you with another letter. I had not intended to write again, but with South Africa in the forefront of public attention I feel frustrated by the generally negative approach that is advocated, and so I hope you will be prepared to consider a further and much larger proposal from me. The proposal is made in the spirit of doing something positive for black South Africans in contrast to the negative approach of punitive economic sanctions.

In broad terms my proposal is that we in Britain initiate a major development programme for black South Africans. Possibly the proposal could be extended to a Commonwealth or an EEC programme which would enable other members to make their contributions.

The type of programme I have in mind is as follows:

1. A joint initiative from the government, private industry, and public institutions.
2. The aim would be to help black South Africans (i.e. Africans, Coloureds, and Indians) in furthering the development of their country.
3. The programme would operate in South Africa and in Britain (or other Commonwealth and EEC countries if a broader international approach were adopted).
4. The programme would concentrate on such activities as:
 - a. Training and education;
 - b. Improvement and development works (e.g. the provision of water in urban and rural areas);
 - c. Improved work conditions and opportunities for blacks.
5. The training would include on the job experience, so that we might see black South Africans in this country behind the counters in Barclays, or on secondment to a local authority, or in ICI laboratories, or marketing oil for Shell. The courses to be offered would be very practical - e.g. computing, accountancy, engineering etc.

In fact many of these things are already being done, but with little public notice and not in a co-ordinated way. My proposal is that we should do more, and make it known what we are doing so that we can widen

the agenda of debate about South Africa. This would require a co-ordinating organization which would need government support, but would not be an exclusively government enterprise.

Do you think it worthwhile pursuing this proposal? If you do I should like the opportunity to discuss it further with you or some of your colleagues. Also if possible, I should like to make a contribution towards it.

Yours sincerely,

James Barber

James Barber

SOUTH AFRICA Relations P113

