



File BM2ATT
CPC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 September 1986

Dear Colin,

EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' INFORMAL WEEKEND: SOUTH AFRICA

Your letter of 4 September set out the Foreign Secretary's thinking on the handling of discussion within the European Community of further restrictive measures against South Africa. I am sending this up to the Prime Minister at Balmoral this weekend.

I should record that I have talked on the telephone to Herr Teltschik in the Federal Chancellery. We spoke just after he had seen Julian Bullard and Patrick Wright and you will no doubt also be getting an account of their talk with him. Teltschik stressed to me three points:

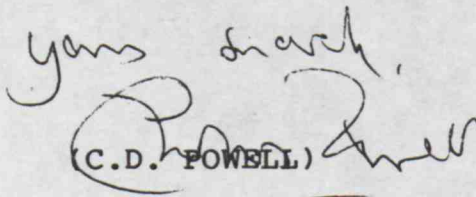
- that Chancellor Kohl was not yet ready to endorse formally further restrictive measures against South Africa;
- nor was his mind closed to alternatives to the measures listed in the conclusions of the Hague European Council. The implication was that something less than the Hague measures might still be an option;
- the crucial consideration for Kohl was close co-ordination with the United States and Japan. For this reason the Chancellor would not want to reach any decision until he had considered the outcome of the Foreign Secretary's visit to Washington next week.

Teltschik said that it was therefore a matter of fundamental importance to Chancellor Kohl that no conclusions should be reached or decisions taken at the Informal Meeting of Foreign Ministers at Bocket Hall this weekend. Rather that there should be a further round of Anglo/German contacts following the Foreign Secretary's return from Washington. Teltschik added that, at one stage, the Germans had considered proposing a special meeting of Heads of Government but now realised that this was not feasible.

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I shall be letting the Prime Minister know of this account of Chancellor Kohl's views. I would expect her to want us to give full weight to them so far as avoiding any definite conclusions this weekend are concerned. Your letter speaks of coming to an "informal understanding" at Brocket Hall on the adoption of measures. You will wish to consider, in the light of this account of German views, whether we should avoid even this. I should add that I would expect the Prime Minister to want to be consulted again on the handling of this issue following the Foreign Secretary's visit to Washington at the Foreign Affairs Council on 14/15 September.

Yours sincerely,

(C.D. POWELL)

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