



Foreign &
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From The Minister of State

Andrew Turnbull Esq
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14 August 1991

File 6,978
Dear Andrew

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Thank you for your letter of 31 July to Richard Gozney which sought more information on Dutch intentions on South Africa.

... In his statement on the Dutch Presidency's work programme to the European Parliament on 9 July Mr Van den Broek included a passage on South Africa (copy attached). This amounted to a general expression of goodwill towards South Africa, on the assumption that progress towards a constitutional settlement continues. Mr Van den Broek mentioned the need to review sanctions in the light of that progress and to contribute to the advent of a prosperous post apartheid South Africa: we would press the Dutch to initiate further moves to lift sanctions if South Africa makes more progress during their Presidency.

The Dutch position on the Community's Positive Measures Programme for South Africa (worth £42 million in 1991) is generally close to our own. Like us they want to see the Programme redirected from political to developmental ends. We are in touch with the Presidency, but as yet, they have no clear plan how to take the EC/South Africa relationship forward, or how to put this relationship on a more stable long-term footing. The Department is preparing a paper on EC/South Africa relations post apartheid.

Yours Sincerely
John

John Duncan
APS/Mrs Chalker

that the exiles who have not yet returned will soon be granted an amnesty.

The European Council has given its support to the resumption of sporting links with South Africa, on condition that the bodies concerned do not exercise racial discrimination. As the situation in South Africa develops, we will examine whether and to what extent it is necessary to adapt the policy of the Twelve towards that country, including restrictive measures. One thing is certain, namely that our policy seeks to contribute to the advent of a stable and prosperous "post-apartheid" South Africa, based on a pluralist democracy and a modern socio-economic structure for the good of all South Africans.

Human rights

Mr President, human rights occupy an essential place in the foreign policy of the Twelve. The European Council's recent declarations on human rights make that as clear as one possibly can. Our values and ideals require us to protect human rights throughout the world. It is right that the draft Treaty on union makes the promotion of democracy, the law-governed state and human rights one of the five objectives of the common foreign and security policy. Community development cooperation is given the same emphasis.

You will be aware that the action taken by the Twelve to promote human rights has greatly intensified during the last years. So that our action will bear fruit, we are continuing our joint efforts to promote human rights, both outside and within the Community. The ever-present latent threat of racism and xenophobia certainly justifies my mentioning the situation within the Community.

international community has found itself suddenly confronted with the task of preventing a human catastrophe. As a result, in particular, of the humanitarian action of the allies, numerous Kurdish refugees are now returning to their homes. The Twelve must continue to do everything in their power to enable the United Nations to carry out its mandate, without encountering obstacles, throughout Iraq. The international community cannot allow population groups in Iraq to become the victims of new persecution.

The Netherlands Presidency, in its turn, will continue to support the American initiative to set in motion negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries, including the Palestinians. There is no alternative to that route. The Twelve therefore appeal to the parties concerned to eliminate the last remaining obstacles to the holding of the planned peace conference. When they meet around the negotiating table, the parties will be able to count on a constructive and positive contribution from the Twelve, represented by the Presidency. The many links of friendship between the Twelve and that region will be helpful on that occasion. The Twelve will continue to encourage Israel and the Arab countries to adopt attitudes which engender mutual confidence and create a favourable climate for the negotiations. The Community will also be ready, when the time comes, to contribute to the economic support of any peace agreement which might be signed.

South Africa

The abolition of the laws establishing apartheid in South Africa is a new stage along the road to a free and democratic South Africa. It will be up to the Netherlands Presidency to encourage preliminary talks between all the parties with a view to drafting a new constitution which will establish a democratic system without racial discrimination. Let us also voice our hope that the political prisoners still held will soon be released and

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