

CCP



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 January 1988

Dear Charles,

CDD
20/1Contacts with Canada: Commonwealth Committee on South Africa

Thank you for your letter of 11 January. The Foreign Secretary is of course content that an invitation to Mr Mulrone^{Key}y should wait until President Reagan's intentions are known.

Some confusion seems to have arisen about the Foreign Secretary's plans for contact with Mr Clark. Sir Geoffrey Howe had already instructed that we should not become involved in the work of the Committee or give any impression that we wished to be associated, however indirectly, with its proceedings. We are, of course, taking care to ensure that the Canadians are fully seized of our views; but Sir Geoffrey has no plans to see Mr Clark before the 1/2 February meeting of the Committee in Lusaka.

Nevertheless, the Foreign Secretary considers it both desirable and necessary that we should keep abreast of the activities of the Committee. He sees contacts with the Canadians, in particular Mr Clark, as the best channel for this. He is therefore inviting Mr Clark for talks in London in March when he is en route to the proposed NATO Summit. To prepare the ground, a senior Canadian DFA official has accepted an invitation in principle to official level talks here in February, after the Lusaka meeting.

Yours ever,
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