



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 March 1987

Dear Charles,

South Africa: Message from Mr Mulroney to  
the Prime Minister *at trap*

Thank you for your letter of 6 March. I attach a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Mr Mulroney's message of 4 March.

It is not clear what Mr Mulroney has in mind when expressing his concern about the absence of "an identifiable conduit or broker" over South Africa (the Canadians also intend to raise South Africa at the Economic Summit, though to what end we do not yet know). It may be a hint that Mr Mulroney sees a need for a revived Commonwealth mediating role. The Foreign Secretary's view is that at this stage we should not offer Mr Mulroney any undue encouragement but should also avoid appearing dismissive of his concern.

It is particularly welcome that Mr Mulroney should have advocated a cautious approach on sanctions in his meetings with FLS leaders. His emphasis on the importance of transport routes through Mozambique is also helpful. We are heavily committed to supporting the Limpopo Railway project, and wish to encourage other donors to join us. The Canadians are at present considering whether to become involved, and this letter gives us an opportunity to urge them to do so.

*Yours ever,*  
*Liza Parker*

(L Parker)  
Private Secretary

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DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:  
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

Rt Hon Brian Mulroney  
Prime Minister of Canada

SF2ABU

*DATA MV*

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT .....

*writing to me with*  
Thank you for ~~your letter of 4 March~~ giving your impressions of your recent visit to Africa.

I am glad that you were able to reassure the various Heads of Government whom you saw that there is no difference of view among Western Leaders on the urgent need for change in South Africa and the abolition of apartheid. I remain as anxious as anyone to see early and peaceful progress towards a negotiated solution.

We share your assessment of the extent of the Front Line States' economic dependence on South Africa. This is, of course, one of the major arguments against mandatory economic sanctions, which would in effect mean mandating the Front Line States to start an economic confrontation with South Africa with [redacted] disastrous consequences for themselves. I am particularly glad, therefore, that you were able to caution leaders of the Front Line States on this point. *in* I am also pleased that

Enclosures flag(s) .....

*and indeed it  
feels to  
have sent  
in*

*Al agree*  
~~you think, as we do,~~ that Western countries should focus attention on helping to rehabilitate these states' transport routes.

In the last five years, Britain has given over \$1 billion in bilateral and multilateral aid to the SADCC states. Currently we have pledged £35m to support various SADCC projects of which some £25m will be spent in the vital transport sector. In particular we are supporting the Limpopo Railway project on which work has now begun. We should welcome Canadian involvement in this project, to which the Mozambique and Zimbabwe Governments attach great importance.

~~I also share your hopes for progress in South Africa after the 6 May election.~~ We remain ready, together with other like minded countries, to do what we can to help promote dialogue on the lines identified by the Eminent Persons Group. Once the South African election is over and we have seen what course the South African Government intend to take we shall be better placed to judge whether there is scope for constructive political action of this sort.

*al*