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PRIME MINISTER'S

10 DOWNING STREET

PERSONAL MESSAGE

LONDON SW1A 2AA

SERIAL No. T 49/87

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 March 1987

Dear Brian,

Thank you for writing to me with your impressions of your recent visit to Africa.

I 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 disastrous consequences for themselves. I am particularly glad, therefore, that you were able to caution leaders of the Front Line States on this point; and indeed it seems to have sunk in.

I agree 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 would welcome Canadian involvement in this project, to which the Mozambique and Zimbabwe Governments attach great importance.

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We remain ready to do what we can to help promote dialogue on the lines identified by the Eminent Persons Group, together with other like minded countries. 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.

Kind regards,

Yours ever

Margaret

The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, PC, MP.