



Prime Minister
 The Foreign Secretary judges that there
 will be strong pressure from the EC
 Foreign Ministers next week for a
 statement on South Africa. Even if Remans went on.

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 CAC

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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It won't achieve anything. But it's probably better to
 avoid a row.

Nevertheless, it's not productive to criticize the results of
 elections. And we ought to reiterate the
 need for suspension of violence by all
 sides. I have pencilled some amendments.

Dear Charles,

South Africa : Proposed Statement by the Twelve

Agree?

Your letter of 25 March set out the Prime Minister's
 views on the idea of a Western declaration of principles
 which might underlie a solution in South Africa.

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Both in the Summit Seven and in the Twelve, we have
 successfully managed to resist pressure for such a
 declaration. The Canadians are still arguing for a
 declaration at the Venice Summit; but they are now isolated
 in calling for this and our strong opposition to the idea is
 shared by the French, Germans and Italians. In the Twelve,
 most of our partners favour a declaration at some stage:
 only the Portuguese and ourselves actually oppose this. But
 although the Netherlands have been pressing for a
 declaration to be issued at the next EPC ministerial meeting
 on 25/26 May, they have received no support for this
 proposal. Nearly all our partners (including the Portuguese
 and the Germans) have however taken the view that,
 following the recent white elections in South Africa, the
 Foreign Ministers of the Twelve must issue a statement of
 some kind when they meet next week.

This is not
 of
 statement
 will
 only
 make
 things
 worse
 not

The Belgian Presidency have circulated a draft
 statement, which I enclose. It is very much better than we
 might have expected, and gives a low-key and balanced
 response to the election result, while restating the
 Twelve's established policy of working for peaceful change.
 The Foreign Secretary considers that, if our partners
 continue to press for a statement of some kind, we should be
 able to go along with the Presidency draft, while continuing
 to resist the Dutch proposal for a declaration of
 principles. Some of our partners may well seek to make the
 draft stronger. The Foreign Secretary would not be prepared
 to accept amendments which would substantially alter the
 limited substance and measured tone of the Presidency's
 current text.

Yours ever,
 L. Parker

(L. Parker)
 Private Secretary

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Presidency Draft for a Statement by the Twelve

Foreign Ministers of the Twelve discussed recent developments in South Africa, in the light of the elections held on 6 May, and reviewed their policy towards the region. They expressed their deep concern over the serious risk of a further polarisation of attitudes in the aftermath of the elections. They noted that this development would discourage those white and black South Africans who are genuinely working towards peaceful change and could only generate new and increased violence.

in the light of recent developments.

Against this background, Ministers reaffirmed that the objective of the Twelve's policy towards South Africa remains the total dismantlement of apartheid and its replacement by a genuinely democratic, non-racial system of government. They once again called on President Botha to take the steps necessary to allow a national dialogue to begin. The President himself has declared that apartheid is a thing of the past: he should now, without delay, take the decisions necessary to make this claim a reality.

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all parties to suspend violence. They urged

That will see things back.

Ministers underlined the fact that the Twelve remain committed to work actively for the initiation of a process of peaceful change. They are continuing to support those within South Africa who are in favour of the peaceful dismantlement of apartheid and, in the region as a whole, the Twelve are devoting significant resources to assisting the neighbouring countries which have suffered so much as a result of the South African Government's policies.

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