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*From the Private Secretary*

21 May 1987

SOUTH AFRICA: PROPOSED STATEMENT BY THE  
TWELVE

Thank you for your letter of 20 May enclosing a draft statement on South Africa, circulated by the Belgian Presidency, which might be adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve next week.

The Prime Minister takes the view that this kind of statement is only likely to make matters worse. If the pressure for a statement is nonetheless irresistible, she would at least want to see us work for amendments to the text, to omit some of the more provocative statements and to give it a better balance. I enclose a revised version as an illustration of what she thinks would be acceptable.

CHARLES POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Presidency Draft for a Statement by the Twelve

Foreign Ministers of the Twelve discussed recent developments in South Africa and reviewed their policy towards the region in the light of recent developments. Ministers reaffirmed that the objective of the Twelve's policy towards South Africa remains the dismantlement of apartheid and its replacement by a genuinely democratic, non-racial system of government. They once again called on all parties to suspend violence. They urged President Botha to take the steps necessary to allow a national dialogue to begin.

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.