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PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH MR. RENWICK

You are to see Robin Renwick, our Ambassador in South Africa, briefly tomorrow morning. The main issues which you might like to discuss are:

- the implications of the American Presidential elections for South Africa. It is clear that a Democrat Administration would make life very difficult by taking additional sanctions of its own and probably leaving us to veto mandatory sanctions at the United Nations on our own. Even a successor Republican Administration is going to be under considerable pressure from Congress to take additional measures. It will be very important for us to start to educate the new Administration on the realities of South Africa as soon as possible after the elections;
- South African allegations about the activities of the ANC office in London. President Botha's last message to you made quite serious allegations about the activities of the ANC office in London in supporting ANC terrorist activity in South Africa. We are getting these allegations investigated properly. If any of them are shown to be justified, then we must be ready to take action against the people concerned;
- political developments in South Africa. He will be able to tell you how he sees the prospects for further steps in the reform process over the next year or so. I think you will find he will give a fairly down-beat account with little prospect of significant movement at least until after the elections, which probably won't be held until 1989;
- meeting with Chief Buthelezi. He is apparently feeling depressed by the extent to which the South African Government are wilfully by-passing him, and the ANC are beginning to erode his Zulu support in the townships. He is very keen to have a further meeting with you to build up his prestige and

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we are looking for a date in July. We are continuing to provide assistance to Mabuza;

- regional issues. The South Africans seem to be getting back on terms with the Mozambique government and the new round of discussions with Angola is a step forward, although it will probably be over-optimistic to expect any early progress;

- contacts with the ANC. While we should continue to keep open a channel to the ANC at official level, there seems no need at present of any sort of Ministerial contact with them. Indeed it would probably give the wrong signal;

- possible visit to South Africa. This is clearly not on the cards at the present because there is no sign of the South Africans taking any of the steps which would warrant it. The earliest feasible time is likely to be 1990, ie, after an election, barring the unexpected. But a visit to some of the Front Line States in Southern Africa is a possibility for next year, perhaps at Easter;

- interview with Black South African journalists. He has got some candidates lined up to interview you but thinks it would be better to delay it until later in the year.

C.D.P.

(C. D. POWELL)

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