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From the Private Secretary

9 June 1988

See log.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Prime Minister had a talk this morning with Mr. Renwick, HM Ambassador Cape Town, about the prospects in South Africa. The following were the main points to emerge:

- Mr. Renwick should take back an oral message from the Prime Minister to President Botha and his Ministers underlining the growing difficulties which South Africa would encounter internationally later in the year, particularly in the event of a Democratic victory in the US Presidential elections. The message should press for progress on specific issues, notably release of Mandela, normalisation of relations with Mozambique, continued negotiations with Angola and further steps to dismantle apartheid;
- particular emphasis should be given to the release of Mandela. This could be the key to influencing the attitude of a new US Administration. We should try to engage the South African government in informal discussion of the procedural and presentational steps which would be required by Mandela's release, in the hope that this would encourage them to take the leap;
- the Prime Minister agrees to see Chief Buthelezi in July;
- thereafter she will probably want to send a further written message to President Botha. This would draw on the points above, making clear that South Africa had not yet done enough to help us resist demands for further measures by the international community;
- the Prime Minister will also want to be in a position not later than mid-July to reply authoritatively to President Botha's recent message about the activities of the ANC office in London. If the South African authorities have not yet produced detailed evidence, they should be urged to do so speedily.

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- we should need to make a considerable effort with an incoming American Administration to persuade them against precipitate action on South Africa, pointing out the disastrous consequences of sanctions for the Front Line states. Our first objective should be to obtain a commitment to consultation before taking any action. It would of course help if negotiations were in progress on Angola, since that would provide continuity and an incentive to the US not to disrupt them;
- we should give more prominence to our humanitarian aid to black South Africans, eg. Operation Hunger. Mr. Renwick will propose a number of black South African journalists for an interview with the Prime Minister later in the year.

Yours sincerely
Charles Powell

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