



the department for Enterprise

CONFIDENTIAL

The Hon. Alan Clark MP
Minister for Trade

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Dear Charles

COAL IMPORTS: SOUTH AFRICA

I am grateful to you for keeping the Prime Minister abreast of Mr Clark's concerns that coal imports from South Africa might be restricted (your letter of 20 May refers).

Monitoring further possible German shifts in position will clearly become particularly important. The internal differences there have been increasingly evident with the Auswartiges Amt continuing to search for some additional measures against South Africa but being resisted by others in the German administration. Back in March BE Bonn reported (Tel no. 248) FRG State Secretary Sudhoff as saying "it was too early to say whether the FRG would wish to consider supporting any further restrictive measures against South Africa". BE Bonn concluded then that if the Sharpville 6 were executed German interest in further limited restrictive measures might sharpen quickly. At April meetings of the Africa Working Group and Political Committee in Brussels the German position was also ambivalent. Even in New York, as UKMIS reported on 7 May, the German Deputy Permanent Representative was manifesting new thinking on sanctions following their abstention in the Security Council in March on the South African Resolution. The Federal Chancellor was personally involved in the decision then to shift to an abstention and BE Bonn judged earlier this month that we cannot exclude the possibility of some further gesture if executions take place or if there are other dramatic developments. Fortunately the consideration of further measures seems to be

at flap. p15



the department for Enterprise

2

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June 1988

concentrated in the non-economic sectors at present and BE Bonn reported last month, subsequent to my Minister's letter to Mrs Chalker, that the Auswartiges Amt remains opposed to a ban on coal imports. Let us hope it maintains that position.

I am copying this letter to Lyn Parker at the FCO and Steve Whiting at the Department of Energy.

*Yours sincerely
Mayjone Davies*

MISS M DAVIES
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S AFRICA

Relatives

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40

SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY

MISS A. DAVIES