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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

20 July 1988

SOUTH AFRICA

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary had a brief discussion this evening of South Africa. The Prime Minister agreed that she should send a message to President Botha following her meeting next week with Chief Buthelezi. This will need to express concern about the failure to make any visible progress on political reform and point to the difficulties this will cause with a new United States Administration. It will also need to deal with Mandela and the draft law on contributions to voluntary organisations. It should be encouraging about the negotiations on Angola. At the same time, it was agreed that we should pursue the idea of either a joint message from the Prime Minister and Chancellor Kohl or an emissary who might see President Botha on behalf of both of them. This proposal was less important for its likely effect on the South Africans than as a means of binding the Germans in closely to maintaining their current line on economic sanctions.

(CHARLES POWELL)

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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