



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 August 1988

Ri. Botha (2)
CDD
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cc PC

Den Chalker

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South Africa

Thank you for your letter of 11 August, which enclosed President Botha's reply to the Prime Minister's 29 July message. We are considering whether a further message from the Prime Minister is required, and have sought Mr Renwick's views.

You also asked for advice on whether we should encourage the UN Secretary General to take up the invitation to visit South Africa. Mrs Chalker duly spoke to the Secretary General (who was transitting London) on 20 August. It was clear that Mr Perez de Cuellar had already decided in principle to go. But he was anxious to protect his own credibility and was looking carefully at timing. He was thinking of a visit around 15 September, but would look again at the matter when the outcome was known of the latest round of US-led negotiations, which are currently taking place in Brazzaville (and to which he has sent his Special Representative, Ahtisaari).

Yours ever

R N Peirce

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



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PM 8.8