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Fine Minister  
CDP  
17/11

Jp.0110

Mr Powell  
✓Land Mine Attack in South Africa

The ANC have claimed responsibility for the death of 6 whites and the injury of 5 in a land mine explosion near Messina on 16 December. There were also explosions in the area on 26-27 November in which one person was killed and 5 injured; the indications are that all the mines were planted in a single incursion.

2. General Malan has again threatened retaliation and Zimbabwe forces are on the alert. Meanwhile South Africa has also been accusing Lesotho and Mozambique of lack of co-operation in curtailing ANC activities.

3. A South African military incursion into Zimbabwe looks unlikely. There is no obvious target within easy range of the border, and there would be a very sharp international reaction. An attack against a member of the ANC in Zimbabwe is possible; the South Africans have done this before. Or else the South Africans might close the land border for a limited period; this would have an immediate effect on Zimbabwe's exports.

4.

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PERCY CRADOCK

17 December 1985