



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 March 1986

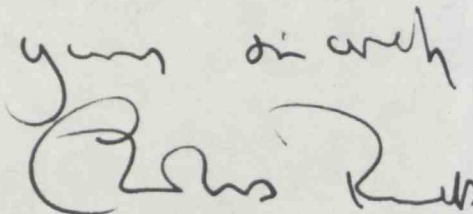
Dear Colin,

COMMONWEALTH GROUP OF EMINENT PERSONS ON SOUTH AFRICA

The Foreign Secretary suggested to the Prime Minister this evening that it would be very difficult to postpone a follow-up Commonwealth meeting to consider the report of the Eminent Persons Group beyond July. He could well understand the Prime Minister's anxiety not to have the meeting in Canada at the time of her visit to Vancouver since this would prolong, possibly considerably, her absence from the United Kingdom at a traditionally busy time. He wondered whether we ought to take the initiative now in suggesting to the Commonwealth Secretary General that the meeting be held in London. We might also float the idea that it should be at Foreign Minister level.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that it might still be possible to slip the meeting into the early autumn, while recognising the difficulties of this. She did not reach any conclusion whether it should be at Head of Government or Foreign Minister level.

The Foreign Secretary will no doubt want to let the Prime Minister have his considered views on this in due course.

Yours sincerely,


Charles Powell

Colin Budd Esq
 Foreign and Commonwealth Office