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MY CALL ON LUBBERS AND VAN DEN BROEK: 6 JUNE  
SOUTH AFRICA

SUMMARY

1. VAN DEN BROEK CLEAR THAT THE TWELVE WILL HAVE TO RECONSIDER  
THEIR POSITION IF THE COMGEP INITIATIVE RUNS INTO THE GROUND.  
I STRESSED THE NEED TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE NEW MEASURES ONLY  
WITH EXTREME CAUTION.

DETAIL

2. LUBBERS ASKED WHETHER THE EXISTENCE OF COMGEP WOULD MAKE  
IT HELPFUL FOR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A STATEMENT AT THIS  
STAGE, OR THE REVERSE.

3. I SAID IT WAS NOT CLEAR. HMG WERE RELUCTANT TO BE  
PERSUADED IN FAVOUR OF FURTHER MEASURES, PARTLY BECAUSE OF OUR  
WELL-KNOWN VIEW THAT SUCH MEASURES WOULD HAVE A DAMAGING ECONOMIC  
EFFECT ON BOTH SOUTH AFRICA AND HER NEIGHBOURS, BUT ALSO  
BECAUSE THERE WERE NEARLY 1 MILLION PEOPLE OF BRITISH DESCENT  
IN SOUTH AFRICA: A SHARP DETERIORATION IN THE SITUATION COULD  
LEAD TO A MASSIVE INFUX INTO THE UK, AND VERY CAREFUL HANDLING

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OF THE ISSUE WAS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL. EVEN NEW MEASURES OF A RELATIVELY UNDRAMATIC KIND WOULD NOT BE EASY FOR US TO LIVE WITH: IT WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO MOVEMENT TOWARDS OR ADOPTION OF ANY NEW POSITION BY THE EC/TWELVE WITHOUT THE MOST CAREFUL ADVANCE CONSIDERATION AND CONSULTATION. LUBBERS SAID THAT NEW MEASURES WERE NOT AN IMMEDIATE PRIORITY FOR THE DUTCH, BUT ONCE BROUGHT ON TO THE AGENDA, THE SUBJECT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL. IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF WHERE WE WERE GOING.

4. VAN DEN BROEK SAID HE REMAINED PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA. IF THE SITUATION CHANGED FOR THE WORSE BEFORE THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL THEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORCED TO TALK ABOUT IT ANYWAY. IF THERE WERE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS, THEY COULD CERTAINLY MAKE POSITIVE NOISES. THE DIFFICULTY WOULD ARISE IF THERE WAS NO CLEAR TREND. IN THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA THE TWELVE HAD FOR SOME TIME BEEN STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF A TRUE NATIONAL DIALOGUE GETTING UNDER WAY. IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, WHEN REFERRING TO COMGEP, TO MAKE A FURTHER PLEA FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO ENTER INTO SUCH A DIALOGUE AND FOR THE ANC TO SUSPEND VIOLENCE. BUT IF THERE WAS STILL NO SIGN OF REAL DIALOGUE THEN THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE IN A DIFFICULT POSITION: THE DANISH DECISION TO IMPOSE A TOTAL TRADE BOYCOTT SHOWED THAT THE 'FROGS WERE BEGINNING TO JUMP OUT OF THE BARREL AGAIN'. THE SECRETARY OF STATE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS RELATIVELY EASY FOR THE DANES, WITH VERY LITTLE AT STAKE IN SOUTH AFRICA, TO MAKE SUCH GESTURES. VAN DEN BROEK SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT IT WAS NOT FOR THE MOMENT FEASIBLE FOR THE TWELVE TO HAVE AN AGREED POLICY IN THIS ARE. BUT IF COMGEP WERE TO FAIL, THEN THE TWELVE WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION.

5. LUBBERS ASKED IF THE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW ON THE SUBJECT INSIDE COMGEP WERE SMALLER OR LARGER THAN THOSE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID HE THOUGHT THEY WERE MUCH THE SAME IN THEIR RANGE BUT THAT IN THE COMMONWEALTH THE WEIGHT IN FAVOUR OF MORE MEASURES WAS EVEN STRONGER. LUBBERS

/ SAID

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SAID HE WAS INCLINED TO CONCLUDE THAT IT WOULD BE LESS DIFFICULT TO REACH INTRA-EC AGREEMENT THAN AGREEMENT WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH. VAN DEN BROEK WONDERED IF THE TWELVE MIGHT NOT SEEK TO MOVE MATTERS FORWARD IN THE DIRECTION BEING TAKEN BY COMGEP. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID IT WOULD BE CRUCIAL NOT TO TAKE UP ANY POSITION SO LONG AS COMGEP WAS ALREADY ACTIVE IN THE FIELD.

6. LUBBERS SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND OUR VIEW THAT THE TWELVE SHOULD AVOID GOING ANY FURTHER SO LONG AS COMGEP WAS STILL ALIVE. BUT HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL, IF THE TWELVE WERE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON FURTHER MEASURES, FOR THE UK THEN TO BE ABLE TO SAY TO THE COMMONWEALTH THAT IF THE TWELVE COULD REACH AN AGREEMENT OF THAT KIND, THE COMMONWEALTH OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO DO THE SAME.

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