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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 June 1986

Dealt with orally. CDP 40.

Dear Charles,

South Africa: President Botha

PLAPPT 9

You said in your letter of 29 May to Robert Culshaw that the Prime Minister wished the Foreign Secretary to explore while he was in Halifax the idea, which Pik Botha mentioned on a personal basis to our Ambassador, of a meeting between European Heads of Government and President Botha.

The Foreign Secretary took the opportunity during the North Atlantic Council meeting last weekend to sound out Genscher and Raimond. Neither liked the idea. Genscher thought that the South African objectives would be to achieve some degree of respectability and support for their position which European Governments clearly could not give. He did not see how such a meeting would help to promote a solution for South Africa's problems.

Raimond was even less forthcoming and said that his initial reaction was that such a meeting would be difficult to contemplate. He pointed to the fact that the French had asked State President Botha to delay the visit to France which he had planned for June (to visit a monument to South African war dead) until November.

It is clear, therefore, that the idea is a non-starter at least for the time being. We have heard no more from Pik Botha and the Foreign Secretary sees no advantage in pursuing the question any further.

*Yours ever,
Tony Galsworthy*

(A C Galsworthy)
Private Secretary

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