

SUBJECT

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O. Jo 1830²

Via WHITEHOUSE

20.6.86

cc Master
ops

FOLLOWING FOR JOHN POINDEXTER FROM CHARLES POWELL

cmg

Text follows of a strictly personal message from the Prime Minister to President Reagan about South Africa.

Mrs. Thatcher hopes that knowledge of it can be restricted as closely as possible and that it will not be seen outside the White House.

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

Message begins:

SERIAL No. T114/86

"Dear Ron

When we met in Tokyo, we were agreed in supporting the work of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group in South Africa and in opposing economic sanctions.

It was a great pity that the Eminent Persons Group decided that they could make no further progress. But I am convinced their approach of seeking dialogue and a suspension of violence was the right one. South Africa's strategic importance makes it all the more important that we should continue to look for a positive way forward. When European Heads of Government meet next week, I shall be proposing that we make a further attempt to draw the South African government into negotiation. I shall also urge more positive measures to help South Africa's black people.

Both in Europe and in the Commonwealth we shall face strong pressures for further measures against South Africa. But although there may be some modest steps which would confirm our total opposition to apartheid, I remain strongly opposed to measures designed to hit out against South Africa and damage its economy. They would increase rather than diminish violence and bear particularly heavily on the black community condemning them to further unemployment and poverty. They would also undermine the efforts of the business community in South Africa to bring about change.

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In preparing for the European meeting on 26/27 June, it would be very helpful to me to have a frank account of your thinking. It will be easier for us both to hold the line against punitive measures if we stay very closely together. If by any chance your mind is moving towards adoption of some limited measures, it would be helpful to have warning. I would of course treat what you say in the strictest confidence.

With warm regards,

Yours

Margaret"

Message ends.

EDP
2/16

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