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Meeting
Record



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

3 July, 1986.

SUBJECT CCMASTER

SOUTH AFRICA

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary had a word after Cabinet this morning about the Foreign Secretary's forthcoming visits to South Africa. The Prime Minister agreed that the Foreign Secretary was right to think in terms of two visits in July. She also agreed that we should play the visits in a low key and not raise expectations too high. She was emphatic, however, that we must work on the assumption that there would be a further visit following the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, perhaps in September. Since the European Council have agreed that there should be a period of three months for the mission, we must at all costs avoid bringing it to a premature conclusion. Anything less would be to let down the Germans, which the Prime Minister could not contemplate.

The Prime Minister agreed that further efforts should be made to obtain advance assurance from the South African Government that the Foreign Secretary would be able to see Mandela in the course of his first visit. The Foreign Secretary said that he would raise this with the South African Ambassador. The Prime Minister also agreed that it would be appropriate for the Foreign Secretary to see Mr. Tambo in the course of one of his visits, making clear that he did so in his role as President of the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve, rather than as Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

It was recognised that there would have to be a debate on South Africa before the House rose. The best time for this was likely to be in the interval between the Foreign Secretary's two visits to South Africa, that is round 16 or 17 July.

(C.D. Powell)

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