



Subject file - S Africa
Namibia - Pt 2.

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From the Secretary of State

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The Rt Hon The Lord Carrington KCMG MC
Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
London, SW1A 2AL

8 September 1980

Dear Peter.

SOUTH AFRICA

I understand that the latest South African response to the UN Secretary General about Namibia is by no means as helpful as we would wish, and that accordingly there are likely to be renewed calls in the UN for economic sanctions against South Africa. I am sure we are agreed that in coming weeks we must make every effort to persuade our Western allies that their economic interests in South Africa are not dissimilar to our own, and that together we should resist any call in the UN for sanctions.

The first major opportunity in this context will of course come at the Anglo-French Summit meeting later this month, and no doubt it will be possible then to test the attitude of the French on South African issues.

I understand also that in New York next week your officials will be participating with officials of our principal allies in talks about Namibia. I am sure that if the possibility of sanctions is raised in that context, we should say nothing which would lead the allies to think that we are prepared to contemplate sanctions. In this connection, I understand that officials have been examining the

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likely impact that sanctions would have on our trade with South Africa, and what the reaction of the black African states would be to a Western veto of a UN resolution. The results should be available soon. I hope there will then be an early opportunity for us to discuss in OD Committee how we should react should there be any sign that our allies are prepared to concede any sanctions.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of OD, Sir Keith Joseph and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Cons - ev
John

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