

SECRET



7
South Africa

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

29 September 1980

Dear Stuart,

SOUTH AFRICA:
PROPOSED EXTENSION OF UN ARMS EMBARGO

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute of 25 September about the possible extension of the United Nations arms embargo against South Africa.

She proposes not to take this issue any further for the time being but to wait and see how matters develop in New York.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to other members of OD, to Ian Ellison (D/Industry), Julian West (D/Energy) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

John Williams

Stuart Hampson, Esq.,
Department of Trade.

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Ref: B06024

MR WHITMORE

c Sir Robert Armstrong o/r

Sanctions on South Africa

attached
files -

Mr Nott's minute to the Prime Minister of 25th September challenges Lord Carrington's advice (with which the Prime Minister agreed at her meeting with him, in Mr Nott's absence, on 21st September) that we should not veto alone any part of the impending proposals for widening the United Nations arms embargo against South Africa. In Mr Nott's view we should not exclude a solitary British veto if we cannot otherwise achieve his two minimum requirements (not to accept a widely drawn ban on dual-purpose civil/military items and not to accept anything which interfered with existing contracts).

2. I have agreed with the Department of Trade and the Foreign Office that, subject to the Prime Minister's views, no immediate action should be taken to resolve this difference of opinion but that we should wait for one of the following developments.

- a. The problem may well dissolve; either because we are able in the current negotiations in New York to eliminate from the proposed Security Council resolution any features which would be incompatible with Mr Nott's two minimum requirements, or because we are able to persuade the French and/or Americans to join us in vetoing such features.
 - b. If by 13th October a. has not happened, but negotiations in New York are still continuing, collective discussion of the problem will be possible at the OD meeting arranged for that afternoon (which will primarily be concerned with European Community affairs); Mr Nott will unfortunately be abroad but would be content to be represented by Mr Parkinson.
 - c. If a. does not happen and the crunch point in New York looks like coming earlier than 13th October, emergency Ministerial consultations will need to be arranged ad hoc, eg during the Party Conference in Brighton.
3. If b. does not happen OD will need at some later date to consider more generally the whole problem of the rising demand for sanctions against South Africa, on the basis of Lord Carrington's outline policy paper OD(80) 54.

Prime Minister.
Agree to wait upon developments,
as proposed in paragraph 2 above? The
FD and Department of Trade are content
to do so.

Yes
[Signature]

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[Signature]

R L WADE-GERY

26th September 1980

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