

PRIME MINISTER

The points suggested by Sir Laurens van der Post for your general approach to Mr. Botha were:

- A - Welcome South Africa's establishment of contacts with the rest of Africa - anything that breaks isolation is good.
- B - In the United Kingdom - and the West generally - there is a great potential reservoir of goodwill towards South Africa.
- C - But the internal situation in South Africa makes it impossible to manifest this.
- D - South Africa's internal affairs have become a matter of international concern. So our foreign policy is dependent on internal liberalisation.
- E - In a way, South Africa still had to catch up with 1949 - in recent years they have only been repairing the damage they have inflicted on themselves (I am not sure this is a good point to make).
- F - What we can do depends on what they can do by way of reform. Recall Botha's statement "adapt or die".

In addition, you made the point that it was never possible to carry along with you an extremist group - the aim had to be to secure the assent of the great majority.

A-J-C-

31 May 1984