

ADVANCE COPIES

2523

SOUTHERN AFRICA

PS  
PS/MR RIFKIND  
PS/PUS  
MR FERGUSSON  
SIR J FREELAND  
MR JOHNSON  
MR O'NEILL  
HD/SAFD/  
HD/CAFD  
HD/UND  
HD/NEWS DEPT

*Ps/2 Lues*  
*2 BR... (E) (E)*  
*HD (E) (E)*  
*2 BR... (E) (E)*

MR CLG MALLABY, CABINET OFFICE

~~PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET~~

*R. Williamson. CAR OFF*  
*R. Williams*  
*R. Lane*  
*R. Payer*

} *dit*

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM UKREP BRUSSELS 311600Z JUL 85  
TO FLASH FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2802 OF 31 JULY  
AND TO FLASH HELSINKI (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY)  
INFO IMMEDIATE PRETORIA  
INFO PRIORITY COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE ROME DUBLIN PARIS BONN  
LUXEMBOURG ATHENS WASHINGTON  
INFO SAVING BRUSSELS

FLASH

ADVANCE COPY

YOUR TELNO 127 TO HELSINKI  
EC/SOUTH AFRICA

*Monstons*  
*en*  
*mt*

SUMMARY

1. THE COMMISSION HAVE RELEASED A STRONGLY WORDED STATEMENT MAKING CLEAR THEIR VIEW THAT THE COMMUNITY MUST PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. THE COMMISSION EXPLAINED TO COREPER THAT THEY WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR SUCH ACTION UNLESS THERE WAS CONSENSUS IN THE TEN.

DETAIL

2. UNDER OTHER BUSINESS KRENZLER (COMMISSION) REPORTED THAT THE COMMISSION HAD THIS MORNING AGREED A STATEMENT (RELEASED AS A PRESS NOTICE, TEXT IN MIFT). KRENZLER STRESSED THE COMMISSION'S BELIEF THAT ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BECOME INEVITABLE UNLESS THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT CHANGED ITS ATTITUDE VERY QUICKLY. THE COMMISSION APPEALED TO MEMBER STATES TO RESPOND COHERENTLY AT COMMUNITY LEVEL. A MODEST COMMUNITY ACTION WOULD HAVE FAR MORE IMPACT THAN SOMETHING MORE SPECTACULAR FROM A SINGLE MEMBER STATE. THE COMMISSION WERE PREPARED TO PROPOSE THE NECESSARY COMMUNITY MEASURES BUT ONLY IF THERE WAS CONSENSUS IN THE POCO FRAMEWORK. THE COMMISSION WOULD ALSO EXAMINE HOW IT COULD STRENGTHEN ITS SUPPORT FOR ORGANISATIONS ENGAGED IN PEACEFUL ACTION TO OPPOSE APARTHEID AND FOR VICTIMS OF THE REGIME.

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3. HERZ (FRG) RECALLED GERMANY'S OPPOSITION TO ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. ELLIOTT (UK) EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE COMMISSION HAD COME OUT IN FAVOUR OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WHEN THEY WERE WELL AWARE THAT MEMBER STATES WERE DIVIDED ON THIS ISSUE AND THAT IT WAS TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE ON 4-5 SEPTEMBER. BUT HE NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION DID NOT INTEND TO MAKE PROPOSALS FOR EC MEASURES UNLESS THERE WAS CONSENSUS AMONG THE TEN.

4. WE UNDERSTAND FROM CABINET SOURCES (PLEASE PROTECT) THAT THE COMMISSION STATEMENT REFLECTS AN APPROACH PROPOSED BY DELORS WHO ARGUED THAT IT WAS FOR THE COMMISSION TO GIVE A LEAD IN VIEW OF THE CONFUSION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. BUT HE DID NOT THINK THE COMMISSION SHOULD PUT FORWARD SPECIFIC PROPOSALS SINCE THESE WOULD BE ATTACKED BY MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION WOULD LOOK SILLY. THE COMMISSION SHOULD TELL THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR THAT IT WAS DRAWING UP A LIST OF POSSIBLE MEASURES. THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN LITTLE DISCUSSION.

FCO ADVANCE TO:

FCO - PS/RIFKIND, PS/MR LUCE, PS/PUS, BRAITHWAITE, REEVE, SHEPHERD  
BRENTON (ECD(E))

CAB - WILLIAMSON

DTI - R WILLIAMS, LANE, PRYOR

CHAMBERLAIN

NNNN