

*Positivly G-4  
to go for first visit  
to go for further studies  
later over  
not*

PRIME MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL

*We must get on  
to Anthony - if Joe  
Clark is free (or if he  
has refused) we must  
do it. - in our not  
O'Brien - it's not  
wise - it's whole  
shape will part.*

SOUTH AFRICA: GROUP OF EMINENT PERSONS

The Foreign Secretary has minuted (attached) saying that he doesn't want to be on the Group and proposing instead Lord Carrington, Tony Barber or Tony Parsons. You had of course considered all three and decided they were impracticable (Lord Carrington) or unsuitable (the other two).

We shall never get through this exercise if we start by being faint-hearted. It is a pity that the Foreign Secretary is not ready to grasp the nettle: and the fact that the three people he suggests are ones whom you have considered and rejected only points the finger of suitability even more strongly at him. And we must not let Ramphal dictate whom we can and cannot nominate. CHOGM left it to Governments.

We have only a very few days in which to decide. A possible course would be:

to let the Foreign Secretary himself try to persuade Lord Carrington. You would of course add your support;

to explain again why Tony Barber and Tony Parsons would not be right in this case;

- to press the Foreign Secretary very hard to take it on if Lord Carrington declines. You have a bilateral on Wednesday;

- to consider fall-backs if the Foreign Secretary absolutely refuses. I have no suggestions tonight, but will try to assemble some ideas tomorrow.

You may also like to glance at the proposed terms of

CONFIDENTIAL

*He can't be  
wishes - but  
don't see how  
hard c. can go  
to go with  
Ref. on (a. b. c.)  
at all.*

reference for the Group in paragraph 5 of the attached paper.

Agree to allow the Foreign Secretary to try Lord Carrington?

Yes  
mr

CDP

CDP

27 October, 1985.

P.S. We should also get a fuller  
<sup>Yes mr</sup>  
message to President Botra spelling out  
just what you had to go through to  
obtain a reasonable outcome: and seeking  
his cooperation over the next six months.  
I will try to CONFIDENTIAL drop: or you may  
prefer an emissary (though I gather Laurens van  
der Post may not be available at present). C.D.P.