



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 February 1988

From The Minister of State

Anti-Apartheid Women's Committee
13 Mandela Street
London
NW1

Dear Au,

Thank you for your letter of 13 February asking me to participate in a picket in front of the South African Embassy calling for clemency for the 'Sharpeville Six'.

I am unable to join your picket. But I assure you that the Government have followed the cases of the 'Sharpeville Six' closely and with concern. In the light of the rejections of the appeals of the 'Six' on 1 December, the German Ambassador at Pretoria called on the South African Deputy Foreign Minister on 4 December and appealed for clemency on behalf of ourselves and the other Member States of the EC. In addition, the Government supported a statement issued by the President of the UN Security Council on 18 December which urged the South African Government to commute the death sentences. We have since reiterated our concern direct to the South African Government.

I hope that the South African Government will grant clemency in these cases.

Yours sincerely
Lynda Chalker

Mrs Lynda Chalker

RECEIVED 26 FEB 1988