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THE PRIME MINISTER

24 November 1987

Dear Mr. Caborn

Thank you for your letter of 29 October about South Africa.

You are no doubt familiar with two quotations from Mr. Tambo when he visited the United Kingdom last year:

"We are going to step up the struggle. It is going to accelerate ... the ANC embraces violence. We are going to intensify the struggle. You can expect this all along the line as long as apartheid is there."

The ANC would go to "every conceivable length" to destroy the apartheid system in South Africa ... "the escalated armed struggle cannot avoid the use of guns".

They seem to me to speak for themselves.

As I told the House of Commons in my statement on the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on 22 October, we disagree with those who say that sanctions are the most effective means to bring about change and to get rid of apartheid. Punitive sanctions would only harden attitudes and cause hardship above all to black people in South Africa. Economic stagnation or decline would not make it easier for South Africans to work out answers to their problems, but would delay and complicate the process still further.

Yours sincerely
Richard Caborn

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