



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA



PLP ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury
and Minister for the Civil Service
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

29 October 1987

Dear Prime Minister

I have received news today that the United Democratic Front, the main umbrella organisation within South Africa, bringing together over eight hundred organisations united in their opposition to apartheid, has written an open letter to you announcing that it is suspending its relations with Britain.

This development is precisely what I and other colleagues predicted in the Early Day Motion 179 which we tabled when the House of Commons reconvened. I believe it is vital that you repair the damage that you have done to relations between Britain and the black majority in South Africa.

I would therefore ask that you withdraw immediately the statement in which you described the African National Congress as a "typical terrorist organisation" and arrange meetings with the Commonwealth Secretary General and the Chairman of the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Committee on Southern Africa to discuss how Britain can join with the rest of the Commonwealth in pursuing a programme of effective sanctions against apartheid South Africa.

Yours sincerely

RICHARD CABORN
Secretary