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SP

ack'd on 25/10

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

*ask* 17 October 1985

I attach a letter the Prime Minister has received from the United Nations Association of Great Britain.

I should be grateful if you could reply to this after CHOGM on the Prime Minister's behalf.

BF.

C D POWELL

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

3 WHITEHALL COURT LONDON SW1A 2EL 01-930 2931/2

*Pl. ask ECO  
to reply after  
CHOGM CDP 16/x*

11th October 1985

Dear Prime Minister

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

At the 30th Plenary Assembly of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), held last week in Geneva, a number of resolutions were adopted on a wide range of global issues.

At a meeting of the ad hoc Commonwealth Group in WFUNA, it was agreed to send to you a copy of the Resolutions dealing with South Africa and Apartheid; Namibia; Universality and UNESCO; and the Law of the Sea. I agreed to send these on behalf of the Commonwealth Group and have much pleasure in enclosing them herewith.

We earnestly hope that your meeting in Nassau will be fruitful.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Harper  
Director

PS: This letter is being sent to each Head of Government on behalf of the UNAs of Bangladesh, Cyprus, Ghana, India, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and the United Kingdom.

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
C/O The Office of the Prime Minister  
NASSAU  
Bahamas

Encs

South Africa and apartheid

The 30th Plenary Assembly of WFUNA,

Outraged by the brutal repression daily committed by the Pretoria regime against the black majority struggling against apartheid and for their inalienable right to self-determination,

Gravely concerned over the recent imposition of the state of emergency and stepped-up arbitrary arrest, torture and wanton killing of opponents of apartheid rule,

Considering that white minority rule and apartheid are the root causes for conflict in Southern Africa,

Convinced that there can be no peace, stability and prosperity in Southern Africa unless the apartheid system is abolished and replaced by a united non-racial and democratic society in South Africa,

Deeply concerned over systematic liquidation of popular leaders and activists secretly killed by the murder squads of the Pretoria regime and its collaborators,

Considering that the barbaric apartheid system constitutes a crime against humanity and a threat to world peace,

Expressing alarm at the possession by South Africa of nuclear capability and deploring the negative role played by any party in this process,

Gravely concerned at cases of systematic violations of the UN arms embargo and the failure of the world community to secure its effective implementation,

Dismayed at the policy of investments and other forms of economic collaboration by foreign interests which are assisting the apartheid regime in maintaining its repressive machinery,

Deeply concerned over the plight of the peoples of Namibia and the Front Line States, being victims of the occupation and aggression perpetrated by the apartheid regime,

Noting that the call for total sanctions against racist South Africa originates from and is strongly supported by the oppressed people of South Africa and its authentic leaders,

Recognizing that South Africa, as proclaimed in the historic Freedom Charter, "belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people",

Reiterating its conviction that the inhuman apartheid system cannot be reformed but must be totally eradicated and replaced by a united, non-racial, just and democratic society based on one person one vote in a unitary South Africa,

Commends the valiant South African people for the heroic struggle against apartheid, in particular under the leadership of the ANC as the vanguard liberation movement in South Africa, designed to render the apartheid system unworkable;

Calls for the immediate unconditional release of its Hon President, Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners with whom the regime must engage in meaningful talks towards the establishment of a free South Africa;

Calls on the UN Security Council urgently to decide on immediate further steps towards the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the UN Charter;

Deplores the use of the veto in the UN Security Council to frustrate the worldwide demands for the imposition of effective sanctions against South Africa;

Commends the many non-governmental organisations for their role in bringing about the growing momentum in Western Countries in favour of effective sanctions against South Africa;

Welcomes the growing international consensus and momentum in favour of sanctions against the racist South African regime, including the unilateral imposition of sanctions measures by numerous countries, and calls upon each and every government to decide on unilateral sanctions measures aiming at the complete isolation of apartheid South Africa, such as termination of all economic links with South Africa, including trade and investments, and cessation of all academic, cultural, scientific and sporting relations which support the apartheid regime of South Africa;

Commends the UN Special Committee against Apartheid for its signal contribution to the international mobilization against apartheid, and in particular for its pioneering role within the UN system in co-operating with NGOs and representatives of public opinion;

Urges the UN General Assembly to provide the UN Special Committee against Apartheid with the necessary means for the expansion of its work;

Calls upon the UN General Assembly to proclaim a World Campaign Against Apartheid - the Final Mobilization, whereby the UN, governments and non-governmental organisations would effectively join hands in the historic undertaking of bringing an end to the apartheid system;

Appeals to justice-loving governments and non-governmental organisations to work toward the convening in 1986 of a special session of the UN General Assembly to consider all aspects of the struggle against apartheid and in particular sanctions against South Africa, ensuring that such a UN Special Session will have the strongest input of non-governmental organisations;

Recommends to the Executive Committee of WFUNA that it set up a special group with the purpose of promoting WFUNA's dynamic and intensified involvement in the world campaign against apartheid through its member Associations;

Calls upon all governments dramatically to increase international assistance to the Front Line States so as to make them better able to sustain the consequences of acts of economic and military sabotage from South Africa and to make use especially of the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference for these purposes;

Urges the UN system, all governments and non-governmental organisations to increase their all-round support to the liberation movements and freedom forces in South Africa and Namibia;

Authorizes the Executive Committee of WFUNA to arrange for consultations with NGOs and leaders of public opinion for the elaboration of an international appeal to the peoples of the world for the imposition of sanctions against South Africa which would form the basis for an international signature campaign.

Namibia

The 30th Plenary Assembly of WFUNA,

Recalling the resolution on Namibia adopted by the 29th Plenary Assembly of WFUNA,

Further recalling the declaration of the 4th African Regional Conference of UNAs and the seminar on African Public Opinion in Mobilizing Support for the Struggle against Apartheid and Racism, held in Freetown, Sierra Leone in February, 1985,

Noting that this 30th Plenary Assembly is taking place on the eve of the 40th Anniversary of the UN and in particular the 25th Anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Regretting that, in spite of numerous UN resolutions and countless international efforts to promote genuine self-determination, Namibia's independence still remains an illusion,

Attaching paramount importance to defending and upholding the role and the authority of the UN in bringing independence to Namibia,

Deploring the intransigence and sinister designs of the racist South African regime and the collaboration of certain foreign interests in the exploitation of Namibia's natural resources,

Strongly condemns South Africa's bogus "solutions" outside the framework of the UN as exemplified by its recent installation of a puppet administration in Namibia;

Further opposes any attempt to put forward artificial conditions and linkages to delay the earliest possible independence for Namibia;

Urges the international community to secure the immediate independence of Namibia within the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 435 (1978) and General Assembly Resolution 1514 (1960);

Calls on all governments to ensure full enforcement of Decree No 1 of the United Nations Council for Namibia, the legal administrative authority of Namibia;

Condemns unreservedly the persistent forays of South Africa into neighbouring States, especially Angola;

Invites all UNAs, especially those in the western world, to increase their efforts to secure the adoption by their governments of immediate further steps towards total sanctions against South Africa so as to achieve the independence of Namibia;

Reiterates WFUNA's support of the recognition by the UN General Assembly of SWAPO as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people;

Calls upon all governments and non-governmental organisations, including UNAs, to increase material support for SWAPO;

Commends the UN Council for Namibia for its active co-operation with NGOs and representatives of public opinion and appeals for increased allocations to the work of the Council from the UN General Assembly.

On the universality of membership of all United Nations bodies,  
including UNESCO

The 30th Plenary Assembly of WFUNA,

Reaffirming its commitment to the principle of universality of membership in international organisations,

Regretting the undermining of the universality of any part of the United Nations system,

Noting that, in keeping with its Constitution, UNESCO is committed to achieve gradually, through international co-operation in the areas of education, science and culture, the objectives of international peace and of the common prosperity of humanity,

Noting also that these objectives have not altered since 1946 but have sought to bring together the whole of humanity in these areas,

Recognizing the high regard in which the programmes and achievements of UNESCO over many years are held and welcoming the initiatives now being taken to strengthen the overall quality of the Organisation's activities,

Urges UNAs

- (a) to stress the importance of the principle of universality in the UN system in their educational and advocacy work;
- (b) in particular to work for the re-establishment of the principle of universality in so far as UNESCO is concerned;
- (c) to continue to do all that they can to assist the efforts to bring the current discussions in UNESCO to a positive conclusion and to increase public understanding of the work and achievements of UNESCO.



On Law of the Sea

The 30th Plenary Assembly of WFUNA

Deeply regrets that some governments have not signed the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea;

Believes that the Treaty as a whole is greatly in the interests of all UN Member States;

Urges UNAs to work to persuade their governments, if they have not already done so, to ratify the Convention as soon as possible.