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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

12 November 1985

Handwritten signature: Sir Malcolm Harper

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 11 October 1985 with which you enclosed 4 resolutions passed by the Commonwealth Group of the World Federation of the United Nations Associations in Geneva.

The Government sympathises with the sentiment of the resolutions on South Africa and Namibia but we do not support the extreme language of parts of the texts, the calls for sanctions, nor the expression of support for those committed to violence. We do not, as you know, agree that SWAPO can be regarded as the only representative of the Namibia people. The Government's total opposition to the racial policies of the South African Government and our commitment to SCR 435 as a basis for internationally agreed settlement on Namibia are well known to you. I enclose a copy of the speech delivered by Sir John Thomson in the General Assembly Apartheid Debate on 20 October which may be of interest to you.

As regards UNESCO, we can only reiterate that we shall have to look carefully at what reforms we have been able to achieve by the end of the current General Conference. Only if the reforms meet the criteria that we have set out will we reconsider our notice of withdrawal.

As I am sure you are aware, our position on the Law of the Sea has not changed and it is unlikely to do so as there are good reasons why the UK should not be a party to this Convention.

Handwritten signature: Tim Eggar

Tim Eggar

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