



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 November 1982

From The Minister of State

Jean Archbishop,

The Prime Minister has asked me to reply to your letter of 4 November, and to acknowledge receipt of the results of the petition campaign for sanctions against South Africa which accompanied it. I had hoped that we could have carried forward discussion of the points you raised by arranging to meet during your recent stay in England. My office telephoned the Anti-Apartheid Movement offices soon after your letter arrived to arrange an appointment for this purpose, but were told that you had already left for Mauritius.

I have studied your letter carefully, and note your appeal for a review of the Government's policy on sanctions against South Africa. We naturally keep developments in South Africa under close scrutiny, and review our policies in the light of developments. But I am bound to say that your arguments do not persuade me that a change in our established policy would be justified. I do not accept that a policy of sanctions or economic disengagement would hasten solutions to the problems either of South Africa or indeed of the region as a whole. Francis Pym made the Government's view on this abundantly clear in the Foreign Affairs debate in the House of Commons on 5 November. I also remain convinced that such policies would be likely to have highly damaging effects on a number of neighbouring Black African countries, particularly Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. It remains Government policy to work for and to encourage peaceful change in South Africa through using our interests in and contacts with that country to impress upon the South African Government the strength of our views and the urgent need for change. Please rest assured that we lose no opportunity in doing this.

Archbishop Trevor Huddleston CR
President of the Anti-Apartheid
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*Yours sincerely
Cranley Onslow*

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