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28.6.84

PRIORITY

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Ops cc matter
 Subject freedom S. Africa A3
 Namibia

**PRIME MINISTER'S
 PERSONAL MESSAGE
 SERIAL No. TH4A/84**

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6 FM FCO

7 TO PRIORITY DAKAR

8 TELEGRAM NUMBER

9 RFI PRIORITY CAPE TOWN, UKMIS NEW YORI, LUANDA, LUSAKA, WASHINGTON

10 MIPT: NAMIBIA

11 1. Following is the text of the Prime Minister's reply to
 12 President Diouf: BEGINS: Thank you for your letter of 29 May
 13 about Namibia. It was good of you to convey your thinking to me.
 14 I look forward to discussing this further with you during your
 15 visit here at the end of July.

16 As you recognise in your letter, the United Kingdom, together
 17 with her Contact Group partners, has been deeply involved in the
 18 question of Namibia for the best part of a decade. We believe
 19 South Africa should have left the territory long ago so that the
 20 people of Namibia could enjoy the independence which has been
 21 denied them for too long. The independence Plan we negotiated
 22 with all of the parties in 1978 and which was endorsed by
 23 SCR 435 provides an excellent framework for the people to make
 24 their own choice about their future. We therefore continue to
 25 devote our best efforts to achieving early implementation of

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SCR

File number

Dept
 Private
 Office

Distribution

Drafted by (Block capitals)

Namibia Standard

Telephone number

Authorised for despatch

Comcen reference

Time of despatch

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As you will know, I met the South African Prime Minister in the United Kingdom on 2 June. I took the opportunity then to impress on him the United Kingdom's firm commitment to a Namibia settlement. Mr Botha gave me the impression of being personally committed to Namibian independence as soon as possible. But he also stressed the importance to South Africa of an acceptable arrangement on the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola, since he did not believe that fair and free elections could take place in Namibia while they were still there. I explained that, while I believed foreign forces should be withdrawn from the countries of Southern Africa (including South African forces from Angola) we could not accept any formal link between the withdrawal of Cuban forces and a Namibia settlement, for which SCR 435 provides an internationally acceptable basis.

Although difficult issues, especially the Cuban problem, remain, I am encouraged by recent developments. In particular the agreement reached in mid-February for the disengagement of South African troops from southern Angola was an important step forward. The withdrawal of South African troops is now well advanced, and I believe the completion of this process will satisfy a legitimate Angolan security concern and constitute an indispensable first step towards a Namibia settlement. I hope we can all work to build on this beginning.

May I assure you, Mr President, that we, for our part, will continue our efforts in close cooperation with our partners in the Contact Group and with our many friends in the region. ENDS.

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