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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 May 1982

SOUTH AFRICA

Thank you for your letter of 8 May.

The Prime Minister believes that the response to Mr. Botha should be a little warmer than is suggested by paragraph 4 of your Secretary of State's minute of 29 April, particularly since we may need the South African facilities at some point.

Mrs. Thatcher would like the reply to include the thought that there may come a time when we shall have a need for the facilities and that she is accordingly very grateful to Mr. Botha to hear that they may be offered.

I am copying this letter to John Holmes (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

Nick Evans, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence

SECRET