



From The Minister of State

Executive Secretary  
Anti-Apartheid Movement  
13 Mandela Street  
London NW1 0DW

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 April 1988

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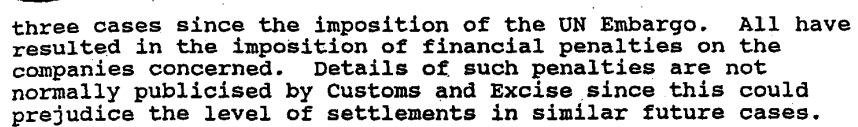
Dear [redacted]

I am sorry you have not had a reply before now to your letter of 13 October enclosing a memorandum by the World Campaign Against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa about Britain and the UN Arms Embargo and your further letter of 13 March. I share the Anti-Apartheid Movement's concern that the embargo should be strictly enforced. I believe our own record is excellent in this regard. Having looked carefully into the allegations in the memorandum of breaches of the arms embargo, in conjunction with other Departments concerned, I have no reason to alter this view. I have the following comments on the individual cases.

Case 1 "Compounding"

As you will know, HM Customs and Excise are responsible for investigating alleged breaches of UK law relating to the UN Arms Embargo. They have made several successful prosecutions in recent years, ten of them resulting in prison sentences as well as fines. We have provided details of these cases to the Security Council Arms Embargo Committee.

In other cases it has been more appropriate to use the out-of-court or "compounding" procedure, as exercised at the discretion of Customs under the Customs and Excise Management Act of 1979. Customs take into account all the circumstances of the alleged offence before using the compounding procedure rather than prosecution through open court. There have been



three cases since the imposition of the UN Embargo. All have resulted in the imposition of financial penalties on the companies concerned. Details of such penalties are not normally publicised by Customs and Excise since this could prejudice the level of settlements in similar future cases.

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[illegible]

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[REDACTED]



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[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Lynda Chalker

Mrs Lynda Chalker