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BRITISH INFORMATION SERVICES

September 25, 1985

POLICY STATEMENTS

28/85. SOUTH AFRICA: BRITAIN AGREES EEC POLICY MEASURES

The FCO Spokesman read out the following statement on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary at 1230 hours today:

"Ministers of the Ten, Spain and Portugal meeting in political cooperation in Luxembourg on September 10 agreed on a further statement of policy towards South Africa including a list of positive and restrictive measures. The United Kingdom reserved its position on the restrictive measures in order to allow more time for their detailed consideration. Having studied the matter closely, the United Kingdom has decided to join with its partners in endorsing the list of measures and will be implementing them on a national basis. Defense Attaches will be recalled until further notice. We believe that by joining with our partners in this way we shall maximize the influence of the Ten, Spain and Portugal in promoting peaceful change in South Africa and in securing the urgent and fundamental changes for which we have repeatedly called. There can be no doubt of Britain's abhorrence of apartheid and The Ten's statement and the accompanying measures give firm expression to this. Most of the restrictive measures have already been in force in the United Kingdom, in some cases for a considerable period. We believe that the sum of these measures represents a legitimate and necessary political signal to the South African Government, but one which avoids further destabilization of the South African economy and harming those in South Africa whom we are seeking to help. Our attitude to economic sanctions remains unchanged."

The FCO Spokesman then gave details of the restrictive measures agreed by the Ten. These were:

1. "A rigorously controlled embargo on exports of arms

/and ...

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