

Confidential File

Prime Minister's Meeting with Mr Robert Key MP

PRIME MINISTER

April 1988

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
27.4.88							
<p>PREM 19/24/19</p>							

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH MR ROBERT KEY MP

You are to see Robert Key tomorrow at his request. He wants to tell you about his recent visit to Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, and pass on a message to you from Oliver Tambo of the ANC. A copy of Mr. Key's letter is attached.

Points which you might like to mention are:

- the help we are giving Mozambique, both in military training, in emergency help (now approaching £30 million) and in the rebuilding of the Limpopo line;
- the rather moderate line which Mr. Mugabe took with you on South African problems when you met him;
- your determination not to authorise Ministerial contacts with the ANC while they continue to use violence (in particular the necklace). The ANC must recognise that the only way forward is through negotiations against the background of a suspension of violence. You will not be receptive to olive branches from the ANC until they accept that.
- your concern to obtain a better understanding for our policies among black South Africans. You are considering giving interviews later this year to black South African journalists;
- you hope to pay a visit to Southern Africa yourself at some stage in response to pressing invitations from Mugabe and others, but not before next year.

CDP
CHARLES POWELL

27 April 1988


MR POWELL

Shana
Yes please: no
briefing needed
CMR.

I have arranged for Robert Key to come in to see the Prime Minister after Questions on Thursday, 28th April.

I assume that you will wish to be present at the meeting.

Will it be necessary to obtain briefing, and, if so, will you commission it?



SHANA

21.4.88



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

21st April, 1988

Dear Robert

I am happy to confirm that the Prime Minister is looking forward to seeing you in her room in the House of Commons on Thursday, 28th April at 3.45pm.

*Yours ever
Archie*

ARCHIE HAMILTON
Parliamentary Private Secretary

Robert Key Esq MP

PRIME MINISTER

Robert Key has written to you (letter attached) about his visit to Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, in course of which he met Oliver Tambo of the ANC.

Tambo apparently asked Mr Key to pass on a personal message to you, and he asks for a few minutes to come and see you in order to do this.

Given your position on contacts with the ANC, you may not want to give them the impression that they can communicate indirectly in this way. In that event you might suggest that Mr Key should see the Foreign Secretary or Mrs Chalker.

Agree?

or

Prefer to see him yourself?

*- He is one of our
MP's. I must see him
p*

esp?

Charles Powell

20 April 1988

From: Robert Key, M.P.

(Salisbury)



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ack'd 20/4

CDP

o.w.H.

R20/4

19 April 1988

Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher FRS MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
Whitehall
LONDON SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

As I mentioned to you briefly in the Lobby last night, I have recently returned from ten days in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. I was very well briefed by the Foreign Office before I went and I am most grateful to Sir Geoffrey Howe and all his staff as well as to our High Commission staff for all the trouble they took and for the welcome they gave me.

I am convinced that our Southern Africa policy is right. However, we are being significantly misrepresented in some quarters inspite of the fact that we are listened to (and relied upon) throughout Southern Black Africa. I found it significant that while President Kaunda ranted against Britain's attitude to sanctions, President Mugabe did not mention the subject in public or private and Oliver Tambo showed a mature understanding of the realities.

It has become increasingly clear to me that insofar as they are allowed access to reality, most white South Africans, especially young people, are desperately concerned about the future. Their Parliament is now largely irrelevant and they are moving towards extremism for want of any alternative. Similarly, the ANC (which for all its faults is probably more influential and powerful than any of the individual front-line states) can only be driven towards marxism and extremism unless it is influenced by the west in general and us in particular. I believe it is in no-one's interest that room for political manoeuvre should be diminished - and that would be the certain effect of comprehensive economic sanctions or a withdrawal of diplomatic representation.

Incidentally, Oliver Tambo asked me to pass on a message to you personally. As you suggested, I will be in touch with your office to see if you could find a few minutes when we could meet.

Yours ever,
Robert



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