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S. Africa*

HER EXCELLENCY MARGARET THATCHER 12.3.80
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**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. TS3A/80**

MADAM PRIME MINISTER COLON DISHEARTENING NEWS REPORTS HAVE REACHED ME REGARDING THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE BRITISH LION RUGBY TEAM THAT IT WILL TOUR SOUTH AFRICA IN MAY OF THIS YEAR. STOP WE IN AFRICA HAVE CONSISTENTLY HELD THE VIEW THAT THE CONTINUOUS MAINTENANCE OF SPORTING LINKS BY SOME COUNTRIES WITH THE RACIST SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME TENDS TO OVERSHADOW AND NEGATE THE EFFORTS BY ALL PEACE-LOVING PEOPLES TO ISOLATE THAT REGIME UNTIL ITS HEINEOUS POLICY OF APARTHEID IS COMPLETELY ABOLISHED STOP AT A TIME WHEN CERTAIN WESTERN POWERS ARE WAGING A VICOROUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MOSCOW OLYMPICS CMA WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO COMPREHEND WHY THE SAME RULES SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED AGAINST A REGIME WHICH DEFINITLY CONTINUES TO PURSUE POLICES OF SUPPRESION CMA OPPRESSION AND BLATANT RACISM AS WELL AS FRUSTRATE THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF A STRUGGLING PEOPLE STOP WHILE I AM AWARE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE GLENEAGLES DCLARATION CMA YET I AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPORTUNITY CMA IN MY CAPACITY AS CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU CMA TO SINCERLY IMPLORE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO CANCEL THE PROPOSED RUGCY TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA BY THE BRITISH LIONS STOP SUCH A ACTION IN MY ESTIMATION WOULD CONTRIEUTE TO THE FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THE ALREADY CORDIAL TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION SO HAPPILY SUBSISTING BETWEEN YOUR GREAT COUNTRY AND THE INDEPENDENT NATIONS OF AFRICA STOP PLEASE ACCEPT MADAM PRIME MINISTER THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND ESTEEM SINCERELY

W R TOLEERT JR
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUELIC OF LIBERIA AND CURENT
CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU +