

SECRET

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 2111/3 (Direct Dialling)

01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

MO 5/21

17th May 1982

Prime Minister

To wife

Dear John,

SOUTH AFRICA

h-a. 12/5. 17/5

You wrote to me on 11th May about the reply to be transmitted to Mr Botha through Mr Eldon Griffiths. I have also seen Francis Richards letter to you of 14th May.

-TPH'd

Mr Nott did in fact take the opportunity to discuss this with Mr Griffiths early last week and I now attach a copy of his letter to my Secretary of State. I think you will see that the message which has gone back strikes the right balance between the views which have been expressed.

A copy goes to Francis Richards.

Yours ever
Neil Evans

(N H R EVANS)

A J Coles Esq

SECRET

FROM: Eldon Griffiths, M.P.



CONFIDENTIAL

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

SFS

Wes John

13th May, 1982.

To confirm:

I gave the following message by telephone to Owen Horwood:

"Mr. Nott was grateful to have the message from your Prime Minister. He and the Foreign Secretary have discussed it, and Mrs. Thatcher has been made fully aware of it. Ministers here do not foresee any need for South African facilities at present, but were pleased to know that if the necessity were to arise the South African Government would give consideration to a request for assistance. They also noted the channel of communication which Mr. Botha would prefer to use".

Owen Horwood has now conveyed this to his Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon. John Nott, M.P.
Secretary of State,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Nott', written over the typed name and address.

MAY 7 1982

