



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T. ~~19A/81~~ 19A/81

State House
Gaborone
Botswana

EA. 6/4/1 II (85)

5th February, 1981

My dear Prime Minister,

Following the failure of the recent Geneva talks on the future of Namibia, I think it is time to start giving thought to what the next step should be in our search for a solution to the problem of that territory. Although we were naturally bitterly disappointed by the negative attitude of the South Africans and the internal parties at the Geneva conference, we in Botswana are willing to continue to play a role in the search for a Namibian settlement. Hence my decision to address this letter to you.

My biggest concern at present is the growing campaign at the United Nations and elsewhere for the imposition of mandatory sanctions against South Africa. The reasons for my concern are outlined in the attached copy of a letter which I have sent to President Reagan.

As I have stated in that letter, unless there is some positive new development to which we (the Frontline States) can point, it is going to be very difficult for us to resist the present call for sanctions as we did previous ones. In my view, such a new development could take the form of a statement or statements by the Governments of Britain, Canada, France, Germany and the United States reaffirming their commitment to Security Council Resolution 435 and warning South Africa not to expect any support from them in her policy towards Namibia.

For reasons which are no doubt obvious to you, the attitude of Mr. Reagan's Administration in any future initiatives on Namibia will be crucial. I therefore appeal to you to do all you can to impress upon President Reagan and the other members of his Government the extreme importance of the role which we all count on them to play in the efforts to resolve the Namibia problem.

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The Right Honourable Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of Great Britain
10 Downing Street
LONDON



*State House
Gaborone
Botswana*

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I am writing in similar terms to President Giscard
d'Estaing, Prime Minister Trudeau and Chancellor Schmidt.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Q. K. J. Masire".

Q. K. J. Masire
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA