

CONFIDENTIAL

S. A. F.
File 126



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

12 September 1980

MR. LUCE'S VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 11 September about Mr. Luce's visit to South Africa.

She agrees that the Ambassador should speak as proposed in your letter.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

M. A. Arthur, Esq.,
Lord Privy Seal's Office.

MAA

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 September 1980

Dear Michael

Prime Minister the Ambassador
Agree that ~~A. Luce~~ should speak as an 'A'?

Yes not.

Phind 4/5

The Prime Minister will wish to know that as part of a Southern African tour Mr Luce will be visiting South Africa from 16 to 19 September and hopes to have talks with the Prime Minister and other Ministers, and some of the influential black and coloured leaders.

With the South African Prime Minister Mr Luce will want to discuss Namibia and to learn what he can of the prospects for new internal initiatives in South Africa, in the light of the recent Cabinet changes, and of Mr Botha's renewed public attack on entrenched opposition to change in the country's racial policies. HM Ambassador in Pretoria has suggested that it would create a favourable climate for Mr Luce's talks if he was able to say in advance that Mr Luce would be bringing a message from the Prime Minister.

A The Lord Privy Seal would not wish to recommend that the Prime Minister should at this stage send a substantive or written message. He agrees with the Ambassador however that it would be helpful to the talks if the South African Government knew in advance of the Prime Minister's personal interest in the discussions. He suggests therefore that the Ambassador should be authorised to tell the

/South

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

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A. South African Government that the Prime Minister attaches importance to Mr Luce's visit: that she sees the discussions he will have as a continuation of the useful dialogue launched earlier this year at the time of Lord Hunt's visit to South Africa; that she hopes the visit will provide the opportunity for a wide-ranging discussion with Mr P W Botha of Southern African questions; and that she will be particularly interested to learn of Mr Botha's assessment of recent developments.

If the Prime Minister agrees we shall so instruct the Ambassador.

Yours ever

Michael Arthur

M A Arthur

File No.....

Department SAfD.....

Drafted by S N P HEMANS
(Block Capitals).....

Tel. Extn.....

OUTWARD

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Distribution: -

[TEXT]

Personal for Ambassador from Allinson.

Your telno 324: DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

1. You may tell the South Africans that the Prime Minister attaches importance to Mr Luce's visit: that she sees the discussions which he will have as a continuation of the useful dialogue launched earlier this year at the time of Lord Hunt's visit to South Africa, and that she hopes the visit will provide the opportunity for a wide-ranging discussion with Mr P W Botha of Southern African questions in which she will be particularly interested to learn of Mr Botha's assessment of recent developments.

Copies to: -

2. We do not believe that for Mr Luce to say this to Mr Botha at the start of talks is sufficiently substantive to justify telling the South Africans in advance that he will be bringing a message from the Prime Minister, and that to do so would risk raising expectations. We believe however that ^(the action in para 1) ~~it~~ should be sufficient to kindle Mr Botha's interest and ensure a meeting. We shall not therefore be approaching the South African Embassy here lest we create the impression that we are not sure of our own justification in seeking a meeting with P W Botha.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN