

GRS 550

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FM PRETORIA 300940Z SEPT 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 359 OF 30 SEPTEMBER 1983

AND TO IMMEDIATE JOHANNESBURG CAPE TOWN AND DURBAN

INFO HARARE LUANDA MAPUTO MASERU MBABANE AND GABORONE

YOUR TELNO 210: ANGLO-SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONS

1. HEADLINES IN THIS MORNING'S AFRIKAANS PRESS READ QUOTE MAGGIE, KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S AFFAIRS EXCLAIM UNQUOTE AND QUOTE P W BOTHA TACKLES THATCHER UNQUOTE.

2. IN A SPEECH TO THE CAPE NATIONAL PARTY YOUTH CONFERENCE LAST NIGHT, P W BOTHA HAS REPORTED TO HAVE REACTED SHARPLY TO MRS THATCHER'S LETTER OF 28 JULY TO IAN LLOYD MP.

3. P W BOTHA REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT MRS THATCHER SHOULD HAVE SAID SUCH QUOTE UNSAVOURY UNQUOTE THINGS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE WAS SURPRISED THAT MRS THATCHER SHOULD HAVE ACTED IN THIS WAY BECAUSE HE DID NOT MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT BRITAIN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ISSUES SUCH AS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE PROBLEMS WITH IRELAND. HE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF MRS THATCHER WOULD KEEP HER NOSE OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. P W BOTHA SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS GOOD ENOUGH WHEN TRADE WAS BEING CONDUCTED WITH THE COUNTRY. IF SOUTH AFRICA WERE NOT TO BE GOVERNED IN THE WAY IT WAS TODAY, THERE WOULD BE NO TRADE. THE SALVATION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS COULD NOT COME FROM ABROAD. SOLUTIONS MUST BE SOUGHT BY PEOPLE HERE WHO COULD SEE WITH THEIR OWN EYES THE REALITIES OF THE SUB-CONTINENT. HE WAS NOT ADVOCATING ISOLATION. TRADE MUST CONTINUE. WHAT SURPRISED HIM, HOWEVER, WAS THAT CERTAIN WESTERN COUNTRIES EAGERLY TRADED WITH COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIPS. IF THEY TRADED WITH SOUTH AFRICA, HOWEVER, THEY SUDDENLY DEVELOPED MORAL RESERVATIONS. THEY SAT IN THE UN WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE MURDERED MILLIONS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE, WHEREAS SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH LOOKED AFTER ALL ITS PEOPLE, WAS EXCLUDED. HE ASKED IF THIS WAS THE RESULT OF DOUBLE STANDARDS OR RATHER ECONOMIC SELF-INTEREST.

5. ALSO ON THE FRONT PAGES IS A REPORT OF A SPEECH MADE BY PIK BOTHA AT A PUBLIC MEETING IN RUSTENBURG LAST NIGHT. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD SOLVE ITS OWN PROBLEMS, SINCE THE DEMANDS MADE BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS COULD NOT BE MET BY ANY POLITICAL PARTY IN SOUTH AFRICA. PIK BOTHA SAID THAT IN A LETTER TO A BRITISH MP MRS THATCHER HAD DESCRIBED SOUTH AFRICAN POLICY AS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE AND DIABOLIC AND SHE HAD SAID THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE ITS OPPOSITION TO SOUTH AFRICA UNTIL THIS POLICY WAS DISCONTINUED.

6. PIK BOTHA SAID THAT IT WAS IRONIC THAT THE SAME WESTERN COUNTRIES WHICH DEMANDED CHANGES WERE NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THOSE CHANGES WHEN THEY TOOK PLACE. RHODESIA WAS FORCED TO ACCEPT A SETTLEMENT AND NOW THAT THAT COUNTRY WAS IN ECONOMIC MISERY AND CHAOS, THE SAME WESTERN COUNTRIES DID NOT COME FORWARD WITH HELP. HE HAD WARNED LORD CARRINGTON AT THE TIME THAT THE RHODESIA SETTLEMENT WOULD LEAD TO ENDLESS MISERY, BECAUSE THE BRITISH DID NOT UNDERSTAND AFRICA, BUT LORD CARRINGTON WOULD NOT BELIEVE HIM. QUOTE WHO IS PAYING THE PRICE TODAY? UNQUOTE SAID PIK BOTHA. QUOTE NOT JUST THE WHITES. MANY BLACKS TOO ARE HAVING TO PAY THE HIGH PRICE OF FAMINE AND ECONOMIC DECLINE UNQUOTE. THE RHODESIANS COULD HAVE MADE CHANGES ON THEIR OWN TERMS, BUT HAD ALWAYS SAID QUOTE NO UNQUOTE. THEN CAME THE TIME WHEN THEY WERE ON THEIR KNEES ECONOMICALLY AND COULD NO LONGER DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE, SO THEY WERE OBLIGED TO ACCEPT WHAT WAS FORCED UPON THEM. IN SOUTH AFRICA THE REFERENDUM HAD TO BE USED AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STAND TOGETHER TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT SOUTH AFRICANS WERE READY TO CHANGE, BUT ON THEIR OWN TERMS.

7. MRS THATCHER'S 28 JULY LETTER ALSO GAVE RISE TO CRITICAL LEADERS IN THREE AFRIKAANS PAPERS ON 29 SEPT. TRANSLATIONS FOLLOW BY BAG.

FERGUSSON

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MR SQUIRE

CABINET OFFICE