

South A

GRS 280
UNCLASSIFIED
FM PRETORIA 051000Z OCT 83
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 375 OF 05 OCTOBER
INFO ROUTINE JOHANNESBURG, CAPE TOWN, DURBAN.

MY TELNO 374: ANGLO/SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONS

1. SABC'S LEAD STORY THIS MORNING WAS PIK BOTHA'S REACTION, IN A SPEECH LAST NIGHT, TO MRS THATCHER'S SECOND LETTER.

2. PIK BOTHA WAS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT AN IMPORTANT ASPECT THAT EMERGED FROM THE COMMENTS ON SOUTH AFRICA BY MRS THATCHER WAS THAT SOUTH AFRICA COULDN'T SEEK SOLUTIONS TO ITS PROBLEMS OUTSIDE ITS BORDERS. HE DESCRIBED AS UNACCEPTABLY RACIALISTIC THE REMARK BY MRS THATCHER THAT SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD EXPECT TO BE JUDGED BY EUROPEAN LEADERS ACCORDING TO WESTERN STANDARDS IF IT CLAIMED TO BE PART OF THE WEST. HE SAID THAT THE BLACK PEOPLE OF AFRICA AND OTHER FORMER BRITISH COLONIES WERE GIVEN TOTAL FREEDOM TO CONDUCT THEIR AFFAIRS AT THEIR OWN DISCRETION. ON THE OTHER HAND SOUTH AFRICA WAS EXPECTED TO BEHAVE BETTER AND SUBJECT ITSELF TO EXAMINATION. PIK BOTHA SAID THAT NOBODY BENEFITTED FROM THIS KIND OF OPINION FROM EUROPEAN LEADERS. SUCH AN APPROACH HARDENED THE ATTITUDE OF WHITES AND MADE THEM REFUSE TO ACCEPT CRITICISM THAT MIGHT POSSIBLY BE CONSTRUCTIVE. THIS TYPE OF APPROACH ALSO CREATED EXPECTATIONS AMONG BLACKS THAT GOVERNMENTS THAT CRITICISED WHITES WOULD STAND BY THEM, AS HAD HAPPENED IN ZIMBABWE. MR BOTHA SAID THAT WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS INCLUDING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WANTED TO DICTATE SOLUTIONS IN AFRICA BUT THEY WERE NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE SOLUTIONS. *MS*

3. YOU WILL ALSO HAVE NOTED THAT AT HIS LONDON PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, GWEN HORWOOD TOOK UP MRS THATCHER'S REFERENCE TO SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMIC PRESSURES ON NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, SAYING THAT QUOTE IT IS VERY REGRETTABLE THAT THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SAID. WE CAN ARGUE VERY STRONGLY THAT THIS IS NOT HAPPENING. THE FACTS ARE STRONGLY TO THE CONTRARY. UNQUOTE.

FERGUSON

SOUTHERN AFRICA

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

STANDARD

S AF D
OADS
MCAD
UND
KAD

WED
ECD
SOV D
EED
MR SQUIRE
CABINET OFFICE

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED