



Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

A warm reply from

London SW1A 2AH

the South African Prime Minister.

9 April, 1984

A.S.C. 2/4.

Dear John,

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Message to the Prime Minister from the South African Prime Minister

I enclose a letter to the Prime Minister from Mr P W Botha, the Prime Minister of South Africa. The letter is in reply to Mrs Thatcher's message of 15 March (copy enclosed) congratulating Mr Botha on the occasion of the signature of the Nkomati Accord between South Africa and Mozambique. No response is called for.

The Prime Minister's message to the South African Prime Minister was delivered personally on 16 March by the Ambassador. In handing it over he explained that the Prime Minister had asked him to emphasise her appreciation of the importance of the Nkomati Accord, both for South Africa and Mozambique, and for the peace and security of the region as a whole, and to express her admiration for the statesmanship and foresight Mr P W Botha had shown in seeking this agreement. Our Ambassador reported that Mr Botha was clearly pleased, both by the congratulatory message itself and, even more so, by the oral message which accompanied it.

The warmth of Mr Botha's letter is consistent with his reaction to the Prime Minister's message. It is nonetheless welcome, particularly given recent indications from senior private British visitors to South Africa who have been received by Mr Botha, that he is displeased by what he sees as our unsympathetic approach.

More generally, the Prime Minister's message will have served to give substance to the point that our Ministers have often made about South Africa, namely that we stand ready to welcome change in the right direction there.

Although the South African Prime Minister's letter predates the recent arrests here of four South Africans and three Britons for alleged offences under our Arms Embargo legislation, its delivery has, notably, not been held back.

Yours ever,  
Peter Ricketts

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary



TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO MR P W BOTHA

'On the occasion of the signature of a security agreement between the Governments of South Africa and Mozambique, I should like to send you my warm congratulations. This is a step of great importance for the security both of South Africa and Mozambique and of the whole region. It is an encouragement to all who believe in the peaceful solution of problems based on the non-use of force and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. I hope that this agreement will bring mutual benefit to the people of both countries in their search for peace, prosperity and harmony. I congratulate you on the statesmanship and wisdom you have shown.'

SOUTH AFRICA: New Pts



9 APR 1984

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Ref.

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 48<sup>o</sup>/84**

**CC MASTER  
OPS**

Kantoor van die Eerste Minister  
Prime Minister's Office

Privaatsak X193  
Private Bag

Kaapstad  
Cape Town

8000

1984-03-27

Dear Prime Minister

I wish to thank you most sincerely for your message of congratulations on the occasion of the signature of the Nkomati Accord between the Governments of South Africa and Mozambique.

As you will know, I have endeavoured for many years to secure Non-Aggression Pacts with South Africa's neighbours in order that the threat of military aggression can be removed from the Southern African region and I concur with you that the Agreement of Nkomati is a step of major significance for the security of the region.

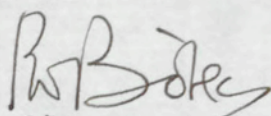
It is my fervent hope that the example which has been set by the signing of this Agreement will serve as an encouragement to other states of Southern Africa to abandon all thoughts of military activity or boycotts against each other and to appreciate that peace, prosperity and harmony can only be secured by working together and co-operating in a spirit of mutual respect.

In the light of the substantial interest which the United Kingdom has in the stability of Southern Africa, I should

like to express the hope that I can always rely on your valuable support in ensuring that the peace which we all desire prevails in Southern Africa.

With deep appreciation for your encouraging message.

Yours sincerely



P W BOTHA  
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher MP  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
UNITED KINGDOM