

HD/SAID

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HD/NEWS D.

NO 10 D.S.

CF: Papers please
(Botha visit)

DWB
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DWF F 024/17

LPT 124/17

DD F C O 171500Z

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

GR 400

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 171500Z

FM CAPE TOWN 171405Z APR 84

TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 306 OF 17 APRIL

MY TEL NO 303 : VISIT BY P W BOTHA

1. VAN DALSEN (DG DFA) ASKED ME TO CALL TO CONVEY HIS PRIME MINISTER'S ACCEPTANCE OF MRS THATCHER'S INVITATION TO A WORKING LUNCH AT CHECKERS ON SATURDAY 2 JUNE.
2. VAN DALSEN SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH HIS MINISTER, PIK BOTHA, THE POSSIBILITY OF SEEKING AN ALTERNATIVE OPPORTUNITY (SEE TUR), BUT THEY HAD CONCLUDED THAT MRS THATCHER'S DIARY CONSTRAINTS WERE VERY REAL AND, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HAD DECIDED NOT TO PURSUE THE POINT.
3. VAN DALSEN SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY WOULD ARRIVE ON THE MORNING OF 2 JUNE FROM ZURICH AT HEATHROW, FROM WHERE THEY WOULD PRESUMABLY GO STRAIGHT TO CHEQUERS. AFTER LUNCH, THEIR PROGRAMME WAS TO FLY ON TO BONN IN THE AFTERNOON. VAN DALSEN SUGGESTED THAT A HELICOPTER FLIGHT FROM HEATHROW TO CHEQUERS MIGHT BE MOST CONVENIENT.
4. VAN DALSEN ASKED FOR FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE WORKING LUNCH, INCLUDING TIME AND PARTICIPATION. ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN SIDE, THE LIKELY COMPOSITION WOULD BE P W BOTHA, PIK BOTHA, VAN DALSEN, BARNARD (DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE)

VAN DALSEN, BARNARD (DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE) AND PRIVATE SECRETARY. (BARNARD IS A CLOSE ADVISER OF PW BOTHA.) THESE FIVE WOULD BE THE NUCLEUS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARTY. ONE OR TWO OTHER ADVISERS COULD ATTEND IF NECESSARY.

5. VAN DALSEN SAID THAT HE HAD ALSO DISCUSSED PIK BOTHA'S OTHER PROPOSAL TO ME (PARA 3 OF TUR) ABOUT A RETURN VISIT DURING THE SEVEN NATION SUMMIT. VAN DALSEN SAID THAT HE TOO HAD SOUGHT TO DISSUADE PIK BOTHA FROM PURSUING THE IDEA. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I NEED ONLY LET VAN DALSEN KNOW AND THE SUGGESTION WILL BE DROPPED.

6. VAN DALSEN HAS ALREADY SPOKEN TO STEYN, WHO IS ACCORDINGLY IN THE PICTURE.

TONKIN

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