

CONFIDENTIAL

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OO CAPE TOWN
GRS 260
CONFIDENTIAL
FROM FCO 181355Z APR 84
TO IMMEDIATE CAPE TOWN
TELEGRAM NUMBER 187 OF 18 APRIL
YOUR TELNO 306: VISIT BY P W BOTHA

*pa Botha
19/4*

1. WE HAVE INFORMED NUMBER TEN THAT MR BOTHA HAS ACCEPTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S INVITATION, AND PASSED ON THE DETAILS OF TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AND HIS PARTY GIVEN IN PARAS THREE TO FOUR OF YOUR TUR. WE HAVE ASKED FOR ANY FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE WORKING LUNCH FROM NUMBER TEN AND WILL LET YOU HAVE THESE WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE.
2. WE HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED PIK BOTHA'S SUGGESTION (YOUR TELNO 303) THAT HIS PRIME MINISTER SHOULD PAY A SECOND VISIT TO MEET THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT LEADERS. YOU WERE RIGHT TO DISCOURAGE PIK BOTHA FROM PRESSING THIS, AND WE ARE GLAD TO KNOW THAT VAN DALSEN HAS ALSO PLAYED A HELPFUL ROLE. THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUMMIT ARE NOW SET AND IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE TO INTERPOSE A MEETING OF THIS KIND, EVEN ASSUMING THAT ALL SEVEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE (AND TRUDEAU AND MITTERRAND MAY WELL NOT). MOREOVER, THE SUMMIT IS REALLY AN OCCASION FOR DISCUSSION OF BROADER ISSUES AND DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THE SEVEN LEADERS TRADITIONALLY INVOLVED. PLEASE THEREFORE TELL VAN DALSEN ON LEAHY'S BEHALF THAT WE DO NOT THINK IT IS A PRACTICAL PROPOSITION. THIS NEED NOT OF COURSE PREVENT MR BOTHA FROM EXPRESSING HIS CONCERNS TO THE PRIME MINISTER, AND IF HE WISHES TO HERR KOHL.
3. GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD ALSO SPEAK TO VAL DALSEN ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MR BOTHA'S VISIT HERE. NUMBER TEN PRESS OFFICE ARE NOT KEEN TO MAKE A FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT THEMSELVES ABOUT THE VISIT AND WOULD PREFER SIMPLY TO CONFIRM IT ONCE IT HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS (OR LEAKED). OUR OWN PREFERENCE IS THAT ANY PUBLICITY SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS VISITED NIGERIA (7 TO 9 MAY - HE COULD THEN TELL THE NIGERIANS HIMSELF) EVEN IF THAT DOES NOT CUT MUCH

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ICE IN CAPE TOWN. DELAY ALSO MINIMISES THE TIME FOR OPPOSITION TO THE VISIT HERE TO MOBILISE. BUT WE RECOGNISE DELAY MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE. A PQ FOR EXAMPLE WOULD HAVE TO BE ANSWERED (THOUGH PARLIAMENT IS IN RECESS UNTIL 25 APRIL). IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE VAN DALSEN'S VIEWS ON ALL THIS. IN THE MEANTIME, NEWS DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO DEFLECT ENQUIRIES.

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