

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 520

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM LAGOS 091500Z MAY 84

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 390 OF 09 MAY 84

INFO ROUTINE CAPETOWN , JOHANNESBURG, UKMIS NEW YORK, ADDIS ABABA,
DAR ES SALAAM, GABERONE, LUANDA, LUSAKA, MAPUTO, HARARE,
NAIROBI, MASERU, MBABANE, WASHINGTON

MS

YOUR TELNO 126 TO DAR ES SALAAM: VISIT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN
PRIME MINISTER TO THE UK

1. THE NIGERIAN MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMONED ME THIS MORNING TO EXPRESS UNHAPPINESS AT P W BOTHA'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE UK. HE SAID HE WAS DOING SO ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND ASKED ME TO CONVEY THEIR VIEWS TO YOU.

2. THE MEETING BEGAN WITH EXPRESSIONS OF MUTUAL DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE POSTPONEMENT OF YOUR VISIT TO NIGERIA. GAMBARI SAID HE WOULD LET ME KNOW ABOUT THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE DATES BUT HIS CALENDER WAS BECOMING CROWDED. HAVING RECEIVED FROM MORE THAN ONE OFFICIAL NIGERIAN SOURCE THE MESSAGE THAT YOUR POSPONEMENT WAS SEEN AS A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF THE BOTHA INVITATION (EXCLAMATION) I TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN EXPLAINING THAT THE TIMING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BOTHA VISIT AND THE POSTPONEMENT OF YOUR OWN WAS ENTIRELY COINCIDENTAL . ANY SUGGESTION OF A LINK BETWEEN THE TWO WAS QUITE WRONG. GAMBARI CONFIRMED THAT IN THE OFFICIAL NIGERIAN VIEW THERE WAS NO LINKAGE. I HOPED THERE WAS NONE IN THE UNOFFICIAL VIEW EITHER.

3. GAMBARI EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY NIGERIA TO THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE SPECIAL TIES WITH BRITAIN. HE DID NOT QUESTION THE RIGHT OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO INVITE BOTHA BUT EXPECTED HIGHER STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR FROM US THAN FROM THE OTHER EUROPEANS WHO HAD INVITED HIM. SOUTH AFRICA HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM THE COMMONWEALTH IN 1961 BECAUSE HER POLICIES WERE INCOMPATIBLE WITH COMMONWEALTH MEMBERSHIP AND PRINCIPLES. NIGERIA'S POLICY, ACCEPTED BY THE COMMONWEALTH, WAS MAXIMUM OSTRACISM OF SOUTH AFRICA IN SPORTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, ARMS SALES ETC. SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD BE MADE TO FEEL UNWELCOME IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. GAMBARI WAS ALSO UNHAPPY AT THE ENGLISH RUGBY TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA AND WISHED THE PRIME MINISTER COULD HAVE DONE MORE TO STOP IT .

4. I EXPLAINED THAT HMG UNDERSTOOD THE VIEWS AND ATTITUDE OF THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT . WE NEVERTHELESS THOUGHT IT BETTER TO

CONFIDENTIAL

/ COMMUNICATE

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS EVEN IF, OR PERHAPS BECAUSE, WE DISAGREED WITH THEM E.G. IN EAST/WEST RELATIONS. SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT BE DIFFERENT BECAUSE OF ITS ABHORRENT DOMESTIC POLICIES SEMI COLON BUT OUR CONTACT WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE END OF LAST YEAR HAD POSSIBLY BEEN HELPFUL IN CONVEYING OUR VIEWS ON DESTABILISATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF SOUTHERN ANGOLA. THE DISENGAGEMENT FROM ANGOLA MIGHT PROVE TO BE A PRELUDE TO NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE. BATTERING AWAY AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING BOTHA HIMSELF, WAS BETTER THAN IGNORING THEM. I MADE THE USUAL POINTS ABOUT THE RUGBY TOUR. I NOTED FINALLY THAT BOTHA WOULD BE LEFT IN NO DOUBT ABOUT THE STRONG FEELINGS ON SOUTH AFRICA THAT WOULD BE AROUSED IN SECTIONS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS DURING HIS VISIT.

5. GAMBARI MADE HIS POINTS FIRMLY BUT QUIETLY AND LARGELY, I THINK, FOR THE RECORD. HOSTILE PRESS COMMENT HAS SO FAR BEEN SMALL BUT WE EXPECT MORE LATER. WE MAY ALSO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE SUPPOSED CONNECTION WITH YOUR POSTPONEMENT (DESIGNED, ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, AS A DELIBERATE SNUB TO NIGERIA (EXCLAMATION)).

WHYTE

SOUTHERN AFRICA

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

STANDARD(PALACE)

S AF D

WED

OADS

ECD

MCAD

SOV D

UND

EED

NAD

MR SQUIRE

CABINET OFFICE

2

CONFIDENTIAL