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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 May 1984

Prime Minister

A.S.C. 11/5

Joe John

MB

Chief Buthelezi, Chief Minister of KwaZulu, called on Mr Rifkind on 9 May during a short visit to London. Mr Rifkind undertook to ensure that the Prime Minister was made aware of the call.

KwaZulu is one of the "non-independent" homelands in South Africa. Buthelezi has a strong following particularly among the Zulu people as an advocate of peaceful change and as such his views are of particular interest. He made clear his unyielding opposition and that of blacks generally to the new constitution seeing it as a setback for black interests. He expressed disappointment that Western Governments did not give more active support to that part of black opinion dedicated to peaceful change, but had no specific ideas when pressed as to how we might best alter our existing policies to help. He welcomed the Nkomati Accord, while making clear this would eventually be judged by the extent to which it encouraged progress towards peaceful change within the Republic.

Perhaps most interestingly, on P W Botha's impending visit to Britain, Buthelezi was encouragingly positive. He said he quite understood why the visit was appropriate - and that he had made his view to that effect clear. If black leaders such as Presidents Machel and Kaunda were prepared to receive Mr Botha, it was understandable that European leaders should do likewise.

Joe Bone

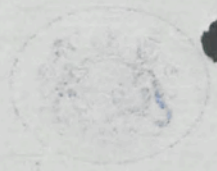
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