

SOUTHERN AFRICA: ADVANCE COPIES 14

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GRS 130

UNCLASSIFIED

FROM LAGOS 171300Z MAY 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 413 OF 17 MAY 84

INFO ROUTINE HARARE, LUSAKA, DAR ES SALAAM, LUANDA, MAPUTO,
GABARONE, CAPETOWN, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, KADUNA (ACTIONED)

IMMEDIATE

MIPT

NIGERIA.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FMG'S STATEMENT ON BOTHA'S
VISIT TO BRITAIN :

THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT IS ASTONISHED BY THE
RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT IT HAS
INVITED MR. PIETER BOTHA, PRIME MINISTER OF THE RACIST REGIME
OF SOUTH AFRICA, TO VISIT BRITAIN NEXT MONTH.

~~OF SOUTH AFRICA, TO VISIT BRITAIN NEXT MONTH.~~

CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS, AS YET, TAKEN NO DECISIVE STEP TO DISSUADE THE BRITISH RUGBY TEAM FROM UNDERTAKING THEIR PROPOSED TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA.

IT WOULD, THEREFORE, APPEAR THAT THE INVITATION TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER AND THE PROPOSED TOUR TO SOUTH AFRICA BY THE BRITISH RUGBY TEAM ARE PART OF A CO-ORDINATED POLICY TO GIVE COMFORT TO APARTHEID.

THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS STUDIED VERY CAREFULLY THE REASONS ADVANCED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR THE VISIT OF MR. PIETER BOTHA, BUT REGRETS THAT IT REMAINS UNPERSUADED AND UNCONVINCED THAT THESE REASONS ARE SUFFICIENTLY VALID TO JUSTIFY THE DAMAGE THAT WOULD BE INFLICTED ON THE ANTI-APARTHEID STRUGGLE AND ON THE COMMONWEALTH.

THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFORE SENT STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER URGING HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER THE DECISION AND HALT THE VISIT OF THE SOUTH AFRICA PRIME MINISTER.

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