

Subject a matter
of

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OO LAGOS
RR CAPETOWN
RR HARARE
RR LUSAKA
RR DAR ES SALAAM
RR GABORONE
GRS 480
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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T86C/84

FROM FCO 241500Z MAY 84
TO IMMEDIATE LAGOS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 324 OF 24 MAY
INFO ROUTINE CAPE TOWN, UKMIS NEW YORK, HARARE, LUSAKA,
DAR ES SALAAM, LUANDA, MAPUTO, GABORONE.

OUR TELNO 307 AND YOUR TELNO 412: MR BOTHA'S VISIT

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO BUHARI FROM THE
PRIME MINISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
BEGINS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER ABOUT THE VISIT OF THE SOUTH
AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER TO THE UK ON 2 JUNE.

I WAS AWARE THAT MY DECISION TO INVITE MR BOTHA HERE DURING
HIS EUROPEAN TOUR MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTOOD. I HAD THEREFORE
EARLIER WRITTEN TO YOU, AS TO SOME OTHER COMMONWEALTH LEADERS IN
AFRICA, TO EXPLAIN PERSONALLY MY REASONS FOR THIS DECISION.
I KNOW THAT DELIVERY OF THIS LETTER WAS DELAYED BECAUSE YOU WERE
AWAY BUT I HOPE YOU HAVE NOW HAD TIME TO CONSIDER IT. I BELIEVED
THAT MY PERSONAL EXPLANATION OF THE MOTIVES FOR THE INVITATION
WOULD HELP YOU TO UNDERSTAND IT AND REASSURE YOU ABOUT THE
DISCUSSIONS WHICH I SHALL BE HAVING WITH MR BOTHA.

MY ABHORRENCE OF APARTHEID HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY MADE CLEAR.
THERE IS NO SENSE IN WHICH THIS VISIT CAN BE REGARDED AS
CONDONING OR CONFERRING RESPECTABILITY ON THIS POLICY. MOREOVER,
COMMONWEALTH AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA HAVE MADE
CLEAR THAT THEY EXPECT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO TRY TO INFLUENCE
SOUTH AFRICA TO CHANGE ITS INTERNAL POLICIES, LIVE IN PEACE WITH
ITS NEIGHBOURS AND AGREE TO THE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN

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PLAN FOR NAMIBIA. I CAN SEE NO BETTER WAY OF DOING THIS THAN BY SPEAKING APPROPRIATELY TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER AT THIS IMPORTANT MOMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. I CONSIDER IT RIGHT THAT BRITAIN AS AN INFLUENTIAL AND FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE COMMONWEALTH (TO USE YOUR OWN WORDS) SHOULD MAKE USE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANY OF ITS MEMBERS WHO HAVE IN THE PAST SUFFERED FROM SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIONS.

MR BOTHA HAS TRAVELLED LITTLE OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA. HIS EXPOSURE TO THE VIEWS OF A NUMBER OF WESTERN GOVERNMENTS IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT. YOU ARE, OF COURSE, RIGHT IN SAYING THAT THE VISIT TO GERMANY IS NOT A VISIT TO A COMMONWEALTH COUNTRY: BUT SOUTH AFRICA VALUES ITS RELATIONS WITH CHANCELLOR KOHL'S GOVERNMENT (AS WITH THE PORTUGUESE AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS HE WILL SEE), AND WILL FOR THIS REASON BE IMPRESSED BY WHAT THEY SAY.

LASTLY, I HAVE NOTED THAT A NIGERIAN PUBLIC STATEMENT ON MR BOTHA'S VISIT STATES THAT THIS VISIT AND THE ENGLISH RUGBY TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA ARE PART OF A 'COORDINATED POLICY TO GIVE COMFORT TO APARTHEID'. I ASSURE YOU THAT IS NOT TRUE. THE GOVERNMENT HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE THE ENGLISH RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION FROM THEIR TOUR IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR COMMITMENT TO THE COMMONWEALTH STATEMENT ON APARTHEID IN SPORT AND OUT OF CONCERN FOR INTERNATIONAL SPORT GENERALLY.

I SHALL SPEAK FRANKLY WITH MR BOTHA, AND I HOPE THAT MY DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM WILL HAVE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THE ISSUES I HAVE MENTIONED.
ENDS.

HOWE

SOUTHERN AFRICA

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

STANDARD(PALACE)

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OADS	ECD
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UND	EED
NAD	MR SQUIRE
	CABINET OFFICE