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OO ADDIS ABABA

RR CAPE TOWN

RR LAGOS

RR NAIROBI

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T86 B/84

GRS 249

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FM FCO 241545Z MAY 84

TO IMMEDIATE ADDIS ABABA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 119 OF 24 MAY

INFO CAPE TOWN, LAGOS, NAIROBI, UKMIS NEW YORK

MIPT MESSAGE TO CHAIRMAN MENGISTU FROM PRIME MINISTER

1. THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO  
BRITAIN BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER. I AM CONCERNED TO  
DISPEL ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THIS.

OUR INVITATION WAS ISSUED AFTER THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.  
LIKE YOU, WE WISH TO SEE CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND HAVE  
CONSISTENTLY AND FIRMLY OPPOSED THE RACIAL POLICIES THERE. WE  
HAVE MADE EQUALLY CLEAR OUR CONDEMNATION OF THE USE OF VIOLENCE  
IN THE REGION FROM ANY QUARTER. WE SHALL BE REITERATING OUR  
VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS DURING MR BOTHA'S VISIT.

DIALOGUE AND CONTACT IS CENTRAL TO OUR POLICY TOWARDS SOUTHERN  
AFRICA, AS INDEED ELSEWHERE. WE HAVE ACCORDINGLY WELCOMED THE  
RECENT TALKS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS AND BELIEVE  
THESE CAN AND SHOULD BRING BENEFITS TO ALL THE COUNTRIES  
INVOLVED. THESE DEVELOPMENTS LEND WEIGHT TO OUR BELIEF THAT  
IT IS RIGHT FOR US TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF MR BOTHA'S VISIT  
TO EUROPE TO EXPLAIN OUR POLICIES TO HIM, AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.  
WE SHALL BE SEEKING TO INFLUENCE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S  
THINKING ON ISSUES OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO AFRICA, INCLUDING  
INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA, THE CONDUCT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN



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STATES, AND THE NEED FOR CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF. I HOPE  
THAT MY DISCUSSIONS WILL HAVE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THESE ISSUES.  
END

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