

SOUTHERN AFRICA: ADVANCE COPIES 14

PS

MR A J S GOODALL
CABINET OFFICE

PS/Mr RIFKIND

PS/NO.10 DOWNING STREET

PS/PUS

SIR J LEAHY

MR SQUIRE

MR ADAMS

HD/SAFD

HD/CAFØ

HD/UNØ

HD/NEWS D

MR FREELAND LEGAL ADV. Rm. WH216

RESIDENT CLERK

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

GRS 650

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY FCO 281700Z

MASERU 290800Z

CAPETOWN 290800Z

FM GABORONE 281500Z MAY 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 117 OF 28 MAY 1984

AND TO IMMEDIATE MASERU AND CAPETOWN.

MY TELNO 115: BOTSWANA AIDE MEMOIRE ON RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

S U M M A R Y

1. AT THE BOTSWANA/SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON 24 MAY ON SECURITY QUESTIONS BOTSWANA AGAIN FENDED OFF DEMANDS FOR A FORMAL TREATY BUT RENEWED SOUTH AFRICAN PRESSURE IS POSSIBLE.

D E T A I L

2. THE FOLLOWING POINTS COME FROM A DISCUSSION TODAY WITH GAREBAMONO, PERMANENT SECRETARY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING ON 24 MAY.

3. AT THE MEETING PIK BOTHA WAS INITIALLY EXTREMELY AGGRESSIVE AND THREATENING BUT AFTER THE THEATRICALS (THE TERM USED SUBSEQUENTLY BY SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS) IT WAS AGREED THAT MEETINGS WOULD RESUME ON SECURITY QUESTIONS BETWEEN OFFICIALS TO WORK OUT SOME PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS. THE BOTSWANA DREW SOME COMFORT FROM BOTHA'S AGREEMENT THAT IT WAS PRACTICAL RESULTS THAT MATTERED RATHER THAN WRITTEN AGREEMENTS, BUT THEY DO NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT AS AT THE LAST MEETING AT OFFICIAL LEVEL IN APRIL THE SOUTH AFRICANS WILL COME UP WITH A PROPOSAL FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT.

~~BY THE LAST MEETING AT OFFICIAL LEVEL IN APRIL THE SOUTH AFRICANS WILL COME UP WITH A PROPOSAL FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT.~~

IF THE SOUTH AFRICANS PROPOSE THAT ANY AGREEMENT, FORMAL OR INFORMAL, SHOULD INCLUDE THE RIGHT OF INCURSION FOR SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY FORCES, IT WILL BE REJECTED.

4. AT LAST WEEK'S MEETING PIK BOTHA THREATENED THAT THE SODA ASH AGREEMENT WAS AT STAKE, THOUGH FORMALLY IT APPEARS THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN THE GO AHEAD FOR THE BP PROJECT AT SOAPAN. GAREBANO SAID AS MUCH ABOUT THE GO AHEAD, BUT I HAVE ALSO HEARD FROM BP HERE (PLEASE PROTECT) THAT DE VILLIERS, THE SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER FOR MINERALS, GAVE THE GO AHEAD IN WRITING ON 2 APRIL SAYING THAT THE PROJECT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF SYNTHETIC SODA ASH IN SOUTH AFRICA HAD BEEN SHELVED. THE APPROVAL WAS CONVEYED THROUGH BP SOUTH AFRICA. BP HERE SAY THAT THERE SHOULD NOT NOW BE A SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OBSTACLE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT BUT THE BATSWANA REALISTICALLY STILL FEAR THAT SINCE IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE BP WILL BE IN A POSITION TO MOVE ON TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FULL PROJECT AND THE MAJOR INVESTMENT (THEY ARE JUST STARTING THE PILOT PROJECT STAGE), THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT STILL HAVE TIME TO THROW A SPANNER IN THE WORKS.

5. INCIDENTALLY THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT AND BP HERE (QUOTING BP IN SOUTH AFRICA) BELIEVE THAT PIK BOTHA IS THE PRINCIPAL MOVER IN TRYING TO LINK THE SOAPAN PROJECT WITH A SECURITY AGREEMENT. BOTH CLAIM EVIDENCE OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN DE VILLIERS AND PIK BOTHA. BP CLAIM THAT P W BOTHA HIMSELF GAVE THE GO AHEAD TO THE BOTSWANA PROJECT. THE BP VIEW IS SAID TO BE THAT PIK BOTHA IS ON A PERSONAL AGGRANDISEMENT CAMPAIGN WHICH OTHER MINISTERS ARE HAPPY TO OBSTRUCT. BATSWANA OFFICIALS THINK THAT IT IS PERHAPS MORE LIKELY THAT PIK BOTHA HAS UNDERTAKEN TO DELIVER ACCORDS WITH NEIGHBOURING STATES AND IS VULNERABLE IF HE FAILS.

6. THE BATSWANA ARE AWARE (FROM NEW YORK) THAT LESOTHO IS LIKELY TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA VERY SOON. GAREBANO THOUGHT - NATURALLY - THAT SIGNATURE WOULD INCREASE THE PRESSURES ON BOTSWANA TO SIGN. HE THOUGHT FRONT LINE STATES WOULD SYMPATHISE WITH LESOTHO IN THEIR PREDICAMENT BUT HE THOUGHT NKOMATI-TYPE MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM FLS WERE UNLIKELY (MY TELNO 116 REFERS)..

7. GAREBANO ASKED ME WHETHER THE UK HAD TAKEN ACTION WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS IN RESPONSE TO THE BOTSWANA REQUEST MADE BY PRESIDENT MASIRE ON 14 MAY. HE SAID THAT AT LAST WEEK'S MEETING THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD TOLD THEM THAT WE HAD SPOKEN TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR IN LONDON. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS. GRATEFUL FOR INFORMATION. THE WORDING OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE VIRTUALLY ASKED FOR THIS TO BE RAISED WITH P W BOTHA.

JONES