

file. 30



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 June 1984

Dear Peter,

Resettlement in Southern Africa:
the KwaNgema Community

I enclose a letter which I have received from the Southern African Embassy on this subject. I should be grateful for a draft reply.

BFH

Yours sincerely,
C D Powell

P.S. I recall that
there is a further letter
from Mrs. Kinnock on the
KwaNgema Community
Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

C D Powell

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 June 1984

Thank you for your letter of 20 June,
enclosing a memorandum. It was good of
you to have sent this on.

(C.D. Powell)

Mr. L.H. Evans



B8/1/1

CPE

South African Embassy

Trafalgar Square
LONDON WC2N 5DP

20th June 1984

C Powell Esq
Private Secretary to
the Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
No. 10 Downing Street
LONDON

Dear Mr Powell,

During the talks on 2 June between our respective Prime Ministers, Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr P.W. Botha, the subject of resettlement in South Africa was raised. You will recall that Mr Botha explained the South African Government's thinking on this matter, and sketched the background to the subject. He stressed that the government always consulted and sought the co-operation of the people involved.

--- Mr Botha undertook to provide Mrs Thatcher with further information on this topic. In this regard I should be most grateful if you would bring the attached memorandum, which deals with the question, and in particular with the case of the community at KwaNgema, to Prime Minister Thatcher's attention.

During the course of last week (and before Mr P.W. Botha's return from Europe) Government spokesmen gave assurances in Parliament that resettlement projects considered essential for homeland consolidation would be carried out by negotiation. Dr George Morrison, the Deputy Minister of Co-operation and Development, said that a number of resettlement schemes were under consideration, but that decisions about them still had to be taken by the Government. Negotiations would in every case be held with the affected communities.

It is true that in the case of the KwaNgema community, the resettlement of 170 of the families will have to take place, but this is of course because of the new dam being built in the area, which will flood the land

currently occupied by the families.

As you know, the Press in South Africa has given prominence to the KwaNgema story, and to the letter which was addressed to Mrs Thatcher by members of the KwaNgema community. Sources at No 10 have in fact been quoted as having reacted to these reports. I do hope that the information I am providing will help to give a clearer picture of what is happening in South Africa at the moment, and will place the various comments that have been made in perspective.

Yours sincerely,
Leo Evans.

L H EVANS
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES a.i.

Opinion

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RESETTLEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA :
THE CONSOLIDATION OF TRIBAL AREAS

The two central aspects of the question of preserving tribal land in South Africa are, first, that Acts of Parliament exist which recognise and set aside traditional tribal areas for the various communities, and second, that where resettlement does take place, the overriding motive is the improvement of the quality of life of the people concerned, economically, socially and politically.

In passing Act No 27 of 1913, the Union Parliament gave legal recognition to traditional tribal areas. In 1936, by the Trust and Land Act, some six million additional hectares were allocated for occupation by black communities. Subsequent governments have gradually implemented this Act, and only 80,000 hectares of the allocated land remains to be purchased.

This settlement process is closely related to the policy of the South African Government to promote decentralisation as far as possible. This will assist political devolution and the protection of ethnic identities, as economic growth points within the various Black States enhance viability and promote self-determination. It should be remembered that South Africa possesses many Third World characteristics, and in a number of senses is still a developing country. The USA Agency for International Development, the World Bank and the UN Development Programme have all strongly recommended decentralisation and the devolution of power in developing countries, and it is this pattern that the South African Government is following in its economic strategy.

To promote regional development, various incentives for the decentralisation of industry are on offer, and a small Business Development Corporation and a Development Bank have been established. Private entrepreneurs and overseas' investors participate actively in the regional development policy and since the inception of new incentives on 1 April 1983, 800 applications for projects, with a capital investment

of nearly R900 million, providing employment for 50 000 people, have been approved.

Sometimes, where communities are fragmented or are far removed from their kinsmen, it is considered to be in the interests of all concerned to resettle them within their greater community. The guiding philosophy behind any reallocation of land or resettlement of people, white or black, is that in the long term the realistic and practical consolidation of local areas into homogeneous units makes the provision of community facilities much easier, and contributes to the economic viability of the various communities.

Much thought and care is given to the planning of each settlement project. Bearing in mind that Black communities traditionally express their views through consensus, the policy is that, after representatives have been shown the new area and the compensatory land, the process of settlement takes place on a voluntary basis and in consultation with the community involved. The process of consultation is conducted unhurriedly, and in many cases extends over a period of years. It is not the policy of the government to bring about forced removals, a point emphasized by the South African Prime Minister.

New settlements have to comply with a number of important standards, and adequate compensation is always a fundamental feature. There must be ample supplies of drinking water, suitable sanitary facilities, adequate schools and clinics, and government-subsidised public transport facilities.

Businessmen are assisted in re-establishing themselves in the new environment. The compensatory land allotted to land-owners, tribes and communities must be of equal or greater agricultural or pastoral value than that to be vacated, and owners are compensated in cash for improvements left behind, according to independent valuation.

Personal effects are transferred free of charge and the Government accepts liability for any losses or damage. While a family is constructing a permanent home, normally with money received as compensation, temporary housing complying with health requirements is provided free of charge.

* * *

KWANGEMA

The KwaNgema community is one of the communities which is affected by proposals made by the Government in 1975 to consolidate certain areas of land. However, there are a number of facts and considerations which should be borne in mind concerning the KwaNgema community.

This community was allocated land in 1904 by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Transvaal: however, this allocation did not confer ownership of the land on the community. It is Trust Land, and ownership is vested in the State President.

No member of the KwaNgema Community has yet been "removed" from the area. In fact, the Government cannot move anyone against their will without proper legal authorisation. This has not been applied for.

However, a suitable site for the construction of a storage dam was recently identified on the Assegaai River in the Wakkerstroom district, which is where the KwaNgema community lives. This dam will flood many of the present properties. Southern Africa has suffered from catastrophic droughts in recent years, and water is a very precious commodity. When the present population growth rate is considered, it becomes clear that water has to be stored wherever possible. Even if all potential sources of water are used, South Africa will

probably have to make use of water resources beyond its borders by the year 2000 in order to meet its needs. It is accepted international practice that people living in the basin of a proposed dam which will benefit the wider community should make way for the construction of such a dam.

The KwaNgema Community have known about the proposed dam since April 1981, and consultations between the community and the Government have been in progress since then. No finality was reached on the resettlement of the affected section of the community, however, although negotiations had advanced quite far, when matters were complicated by the death of the community leader. This development delayed the negotiation process.

Election of the new leader for the community takes place according to tribal customs, and this process can be a very lengthy one.

Construction on the dam has in the meantime continued. During the recent cyclone Domoina, the water in the basin area rose to be a dangerous level and it was necessary to move 27 families to higher ground where temporary accommodation was supplied. In fact, to prevent a dangerous situation developing for those people in the basin who still did not wish to move, most of the water in the dam was released while negotiations continued.

The Government would like to preserve the unity of the community, and the idea is thus that the 90-odd families in the community who live outside the basin should move to the same area as the 170 families who will be affected by the dam.

* * *

MAGOPA

The resettlement of 350 families of the Bakwena-ba-magopa tribe who lived in Magopa, was another project which received

wide coverage in the media.

Conditions in Magopa were such that it was found impossible to upgrade the area and improve the quality of life of the people on a permanent basis. There was no planned or proclaimed township, and no streets or sewerage. The water supply was distant and poor and there was no electricity. The two school buildings were condemned by health inspectors and demolished. It was felt that the only solution was to establish a new infrastructure elsewhere.

Negotiations with the tribe to arrange for them to resettle at Pachsdraai, where there were improved living conditions and better prospects, began in 1975. The area was shown to the Bakwena leaders, and agreement on resettlement was reached with the whole community.

Problems arose subsequently because of a power struggle between two cousins, Jacob and Shadrach More, who were vying for the leadership of the tribe. The Government attempted a reconciliation, but the rift was too great. As a result of this dispute, Shadrach More persuaded a faction within the tribe to reject the resettlement plan. He and his followers moved to Bethanie in Bophuthatswana, while the majority of the tribe moved with Jacob More to Pachsdraai.

At Pachsdraai, which is situated in a wooded area in an attractive part of the Transvaal bushveld, 10,600 hectares of land were placed at the disposal of the Bukwena tribe (as compared with the 7 860 they occupied at Magopa). Each family was allocated one half hectare as residential property by the tribal leaders, and temporary housing was provided while permanent houses were built. 45 Boreholes provide water for the residential stands. Three new schools which can accommodate 600 children were erected at a cost of R650 000. There is a fully-fledged clinic run by the Department of Health and Welfare, and medical treatment and health guidance are provided. A Roman Catholic community

centre is under construction. Two daily bus services connect Pachsdraai with Zeerust, Groot Marico and the Witwatersrand.

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20 JUN 1984

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