

GRS 300
CONFIDENTIAL

S. Africa: Botha's Visit
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FM CAPE TOWN 210850Z JUN 84.
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NO 447 OF 21 JUNE

P W BOTHA'S VISIT TO EUROPE

1. WE HAVE LEARNED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE FROM ONE OF THOSE PRESENT THAT P W BOTHA BRIEFED THE NATIONAL PARTY CAUCUS THIS MORNING (20 JUNE) ON HIS VISIT TO EUROPE.
2. P W BOTHA TOLD THE CAUCUS THAT HE HAD NOT COME TO CONQUER EUROPE. THE FACT OF THE VISIT TAKING PLACE AT ALL HAD BEEN A BREAKTHROUGH. HE WAS GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THE COURTEOUS RECEPTION HE HAD BEEN GIVEN IN EVERY CAPITAL AND THE PERSONAL CONTACT ESTABLISHED MADE THE TRIP WORTHWHILE.
3. SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO EVOLVE A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD SATISFY THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THEY COULD NOT EVEN AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES AS TO WHAT KIND OF SYSTEM THEY WANTED TO SEE IN SOUTH AFRICA, SO THERE WAS NO POINT IN SOUTH AFRICA TRYING TO SATISFY THEM. SOUTH AFRICA DID, HOWEVER, HAVE FRIENDS IN A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. WHAT SOUTH AFRICA COULD DO WAS TO AVOID MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE TO BE FRIENDLY TOWARDS THE REPUBLIC. UNNECESSARY EXECUTIVE ACTIONS WHICH GAVE A BAD IMPRESSION OVERSEAS MUST BE AVOIDED.
4. EUROPEAN LEADERS WERE NOW MORE AWARE THAN THEY HAD BEEN OF SOUTH AFRICA'S IMPORTANCE AS A REGIONAL POWER AND OF THE REGIONAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH SOUTH AFRICA'S STATUS ACCORDED.
5. P W BOTHA HAD EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR REGIONAL AID AND INVESTMENT. WHETHER THIS WOULD LEAD TO ANYTHING CONCRETE REMAINED TO BE SEEN, BUT EUROPEAN LEADERS WERE NOW IN NO DOUBT AS TO THE IMPORTANCE SOUTH AFRICA ATTACHED TO THIS QUESTION.
6. ON HIS TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, P W BOTHA SAID THAT HE HAD USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT SOME FALSE IMPRESSIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, ON KWANGEMA, HE HAD INFORMED MRS THATCHER THAT THE PROBLEM WAS CAUSED BY A DISPUTE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY: THE FACTIONS HAD BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE.

FERGUSSON

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SOUTHERN AFRICA

STANDARD(PALACE)

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OADS	ECD
MCAD	SOV D
UND	EED
NAD	MR SQUIRE
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