

PRIME MINISTERSouth Africa: The KwaNgema Community

Mrs. Kinnock has written to you further about the KwaNgema community. I attach a reply for your signature (Flag A).

At the same time, the South African Embassy have sent you a further memorandum on the subject as promised by Mr. Botha. I intend to reply as in the attached letter (Flag B) if you agree.

C.D.P.

Can we not send
a copy of the
memo on

4 July 1984

KwaNgema
not

RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 July 1984

2 P05

Dear Andrew,

South Africa: The KwaNgema Community

Thank you for your letter of 20 June, enclosing one from Mr Evans, Charge d'Affaires at the South African Embassy, covering a memorandum about resettlement in South Africa. I enclose a draft reply.

As you know, the Prime Minister raised the issue of forced removals with the South African Prime Minister during their talks on 2 June. The South Africans have felt obliged to let us have a defence of their resettlement policy. It follows standard lines and bears little relation to reality. The memorandum claims that it is not the policy of the Government to bring about forced removals and suggests that where resettlement takes place the overriding motive is the 'improvement of the quality of life for the people concerned, economically, socially and politically'. The state of affairs in many resettlement camps, and indeed in the homelands generally, where most of the 2 million blacks who have been removed have been sent, belies this. The argument cannot be sustained that the removals, for example, of the people of Mogopa, to whom the memorandum refers, are genuinely voluntary. Force and intimidation are routinely used to bring people to move.

The memorandum and Mr Evans's covering minute make specific reference to KwaNgema. He confirms the intention of the South African Government to move the community, saying that it is necessary to do this because of the new dam being built in the area. In fact, the proposal to remove the KwaNgema people originated before the dam was mooted. Moreover, according to some reports, it will cover only a small proportion of the land occupied by the KwaNgema people.

The South Africans already know our position very clearly, but it is worthwhile reminding them that we shall be watching developments closely, particularly at KwaNgema. The draft reply therefore refers to the continuing concern in this country at the prospect of the removal of the KwaNgema people.

I am writing separately about the letter from Mrs Kinnock to the Prime Minister, dated 16 June, about KwaNgema.

[Signature]
(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

DSI (Revised)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

PS (No 10)

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Mr L H Evans

Charge d'Affaires

Embassy of the Republic of South Africa

LONDON WC2N 5DD

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Thank you for your letter of 20 June and for its enclosures about the policies of your Government on resettlement in South Africa. We have taken careful note of what it says, and have looked with particular interest at the references to the KwaNgema community.

We remain very concerned about the future of this community. While the resettlement of some families may be necessary because of the proposed new dam, the KwaNgema community have made very clear to us their wish that those who are not affected by the dam should not be resettled, and that those who are should be allowed to establish new homes in the same area.

EM

Enclosures—flag(s).....

South Africa: Relats 143.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 July 1984

John Chester

Letter to the Prime Minister from Mrs Glenys Kinnock:
The KwaNgema Community

Mrs Kinnock wrote to the Prime Minister on 16 June asking if Mrs Thatcher intended to take any further action about the KwaNgema community, in the light of reports that the South African Government intends to proceed with their removal. I enclose a draft reply.

You will recall that Mrs Kinnock and others wrote to the Prime Minister on 1 June asking her to intervene on behalf of the KwaNgema community. The Prime Minister replied on 11 June, saying that she had done so with the South African Prime Minister during their talks on 2 June.

Mrs Kinnock's present letter will have been prompted by reports of proceedings in the South African Parliament on 13 June during which a Deputy Minister said that the people of KwaNgema had to be relocated, adding that talks aimed at finding an acceptable solution would continue.

Having consulted our Embassy in Cape Town, the Foreign Secretary advises that we should not commit ourselves now to taking any further action, though we should underline our continuing deep concern about the case. We have made our position crystal clear to the South African Prime Minister. There is little more we can usefully do for the present, other than to monitor the situation. We are ready to make further representations, singly or with our EC partners, if the situation shows signs of deteriorating and the South Africans embark on a policy of coercion. Action now, or a commitment to such (which is likely to become public) could well prove counter-productive.

Our Embassy, whom we have consulted, believe that, while in the long run the SAG will persevere with their intention to remove the KwaNgema 'black spot', they are likely to proceed cautiously and to concentrate on seeking to persuade the inhabitants of KwaNgema to move voluntarily. This

/assessment



assessment broadly accords with the line taken in the paper about population removals from the Charge d'Affaires at the South African Embassy (his letter to you of 20 June) on which I am writing separately.

*Yours
R B Bone*

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM

Reference

Prime Minister
DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Mrs Glenys Kinnock
2A Clovelly Road
Ealing
LONDON W5

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your further letter of 16 June about the KwaNgema community in South Africa.

CAVEAT.....

I too have seen references which suggest that it is still the intention of the South African authorities to relocate the people of KwaNgema. As I indicated in my previous letter, the South African Prime Minister is in no doubt of where we stand on this matter, and of our concern to see justice done.

We have to judge carefully how (and when) best to approach such a situation. You may be sure that, having taken up the case with Mr Botha, we shall watch developments very closely. I have instructed officials to keep me fully informed.

em

Enclosures—flag(s).....