

S E C R E T



file 168  
= Sir P Cadogan

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

19 July 1984

IMPROPER ACTIVITIES BY MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH  
AFRICAN EMBASSY

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The Prime Minister has noted the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's minute to the Home Secretary on this subject and agrees with the action proposed.

CHARLES POWELL

Len Appleyard, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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 (2)  
 Prime Minister 7

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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT
Improper Activities by Members of the South African Embassy

1. As you know, we agreed that we would take advantage of the visit of the South African Prime Minister to express concern at continued improper activities by members of the South African Embassy here. In the event, the subject was not raised, but I am now anxious that we should make our concerns clear to the South Africans.

2.

I intend to follow this up by speaking to the new South African Ambassador when he arrives in mid-August, to warn him in general terms about improper activities. This should leave the South Africans in no doubt of our resolve and of the consequences of any further improper activities here.

3. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Prime Minister.

**THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
18 July 1984



## SPEAKING NOTE

Improper Activities by Members of the South African Embassy  
in the UK

1. In January 1983 the South African authorities were warned that we could not tolerate unlawful or otherwise unacceptable behaviour by members of any diplomatic mission and that evidence of such activities by individual South African intelligence officers in London continued to come to the attention of the British authorities. We warned of the consequences if this continued.
2. My Government's resolve not to tolerate improper activities of this kind was clearly expressed following the incident at the Libyan People's Bureau in April. I made clear in Parliament that we would consider, if appropriate, exemplary expulsions.
3. We regret that further evidence of illegal activities against opponents of the South African Government has come to light. This concerns the burglary of the Anti-Apartheid Movement's offices in London in 1983 and the activities of the NIS station under the control of Mr Stephanus Botha, First Secretary at the South African Embassy, who you will recall was the subject of a previous representation in January 1983.
4. I must now repeat our warning that if we see any further evidence of improper activities by NIS officers here, or any other South African officials, this will lead to an expulsion.
5. This problem is not of our making. We value our relationship with the South African Government, as was evidenced by Mr P W Botha's visit to the UK, and do not wish

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to disrupt it. We are therefore anxious that this irritant to our relations should be brought to an end.

6. I must ask you to report this meeting to your Government and to ensure that our concern is brought to the attention of your Ministers.

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5 Africa  
News?

18 JUL 1984

