

SOUTHERN AFRICA

PS
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
MR FERGUSSON
SIR J FREELAND
MR JOHNSON
MR O'NEILL
HD/SAFD
HD/CAFD
HD/UND
HD/NEWS DEPT
RESIDENT CLERK

MR B CARTLEDGE, CABINET OFFICE
PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

ADVANCE COPY

FLASH

It would have been better if they hadn't told us. We CDP 7/12

15.11.84 surely cannot connive in this deception.

Have we the right to pursue... for specific others? Or to retain people under those circumstances? Not

CONFIDENTIAL
FM PRETORIA 071715Z DEC 1984
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO. 647 OF 7 DEC 1984

DURBAN CONSULATE

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTER TELEPHONED ME THIS AFTERNOON WITH NEWS OF A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT OVER DURBAN.
2. PIK BOTHA SAID THAT IT WAS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT DETENTION ORDERS WOULD BE LIFTED ON MONDAY ON THOSE AGAINST WHOM ORDERS HAD BEEN ISSUED UNDER ARTICLE 28. THIS INCLUDED THE THREE IN OUR CONSULATE.
3. (ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT HIMSELF USE THE PHRASE). THIS WAS THE GOOD NEWS. HE THEN GAVE ME NEWS WHICH WAS LESS GOOD. HE SAID THAT SOME OF THOSE ON WHOM DETENTION ORDERS WERE TO BE LIFTED WOULD BE CHARGED WITH OFFENCES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN LAW. HE EXPECTED THAT TWO OUT OF THE THREE IN OUR CONSULATE WOULD BE CHARGED. SO WOULD SOME OTHERS NOT NOW IN DETENTION.
4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT HE WAS GIVING THIS INFORMATION IN STRICT CONFIDENCE. NO FINAL DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN. HE ASKED THAT WE SHOULD ON NO ACCOUNT ALERT THE THREE MEN AT OUR CONSULATE.
5. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE ASSUMED THAT WE WOULD REQUIRE THE MEN TO LEAVE OUR PREMISES AS SOON AS DETENTION ORDERS AGAINST THEM HAD BEEN LIFTED. WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THEY LEFT THE CONSULATE WOULD BE NO CONCERN OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. HE CLAIMED THAT WE HAD BASED OUR OBJECTIONS FROM THE OUTSET ON THE FACT THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES WERE SEEKING TO DETAIN THESE MEN WITHOUT TRIAL. THAT WOULD NO LONGER BE THE CASE.
6. I ASKED BOTHA TO CLARIFY WHAT HE EXPECTED ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE STEPS WHICH HE HAD MENTIONED. I SAID THIS WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE HE WOULD RELAY THAT IF THE MEN KNEW THEY WERE GOING TO BE ARRESTED THEY WOULD REFUSE TO LEAVE. HE SAID THAT IF THINGS

BECAUSE HE WOULD RELIEVE THAT IF THE MEN KNEW THEY WERE GOING TO BE ARRESTED THEY WOULD REFUSE TO LEAVE. HE SAID THAT IF THINGS WORKED OUT AS HE EXPECTED THE FIRST STEP WOULD BE FOR THE THREE MEN AT OUR CONSULATE TO BE TOLD OF DETENTION ORDERS HAVING BEEN LIFTED. THIS WOULD ONLY BE MADE PUBLIC SUBSEQUENTLY. THERE WOULD BE NO ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THEIR BEING ARRESTED UNTIL THEY HAD LEFT THE CONSULATE AND THE ARREST HAD TAKEN PLACE.

7. FINALLY, HE ASKED ME TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE EMBASSY WOULD BE AUTHORISED TO PASS A MESSAGE TO THE THREE ABOUT DETENTION ORDERS BEING LIFTED, SHOULD THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES REQUEST US SO TO ACT ON MONDAY. COULD WE LET HIS OFFICE KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS OVER THE WEEKEND ?

8. I UNDERTOOK TO PASS ALL THIS IMMEDIATELY TO YOU AND THANKED HIM FOR LETTING US KNOW WHAT WAS PLANNED. BOTHA SAID THAT HE FELT IT ONLY RIGHT TO PUT US FULLY IN THE PICTURE SO THAT WE DID NOT LATER COMPLAIN THAT WE HAD BEEN MISLED OVER THE LIFTING OF DETENTION ORDERS.

9. I SHOULD ADD THAT BOTHA ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER WAS LIKELY LATER TODAY TO ANNOUNCE THAT A NUMBER OF THOSE DETAINED UNDER SECTION 29 (REPEAT SECTION 29) AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT UNREST WOULD BE CHARGED AND BROUGHT TO COURT. OTHERS DETAINED IN THAT CATEGORY WOULD BE RELEASED. BUT THIS WOULD BE QUITE SEPARATE FROM THE QUESTION OF SECTION 28 DETAINEES WITH WHOM WE WERE CONCERNED AT THE CONSULATE.

10. SEE MIFT.

MOBERLY

NNNN

052 #00

VI & C O

ГЫІ 99А

T

ERE ANOTHE FLASH