

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 February 1985

Prime Minister

Your representations on behalf of KwaNgema seem to have had effect.

CJP  
2/2

Good  
mt

Dear Charles,

South Africa

Thank you for your letter of 11 February enclosing a note from the South African Embassy about population resettlement.

The statement made by Dr Viljoen, reported in the South African Embassy's Note, does indeed affect the KwaNgema people. The statement came only a few days after President Botha's speech at the opening of Parliament in Cape Town on 25 January, when he outlined a number of proposals relating to the South African black population. Among other things he gave an undertaking that resettlement would be given new attention. Dr Viljoen's statement clarifies this by announcing a suspension of the resettlement programme pending a review of government policy. Dr Viljoen specifically mentioned KwaNgema and Driefontein, two of the cases which have attracted international attention.

Although it is too early to say that the KwaNgema people have been finally reprieved, their resettlement has certainly been indefinitely deferred. Indeed, our Embassy report their contacts in the South African Parliament as being quite clear that the policy of forced removals has gone for good, at least as far as "black spots" are concerned.

Dr Viljoen specifically excluded illegal and urban rural squatters from the dispensation he announced on 1 February. The problems of such communities were highlighted by the serious disturbances at Crossroads last week and led to international concern about their fate. There has long been uncertainty about the South African Government's intentions towards the whole question of permanent black residence in the Cape Town area. Against that background the announcement by Dr Viljoen on 21 February that 99-year leases would be available to blacks settled legally in the three Cape Flats townships was a significant step, and has now been followed by a decision to allow the development of Crossroads. It

/is

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL



is not clear to what extent the Government will be prepared to allow illegal squatters (who make up the majority of the Crossroads population) to remain, but Dr Viljoen has said that he is prepared to negotiate with them.

Taken together these recent developments are encouraging and suggest a much more realistic attitude by the South African Government towards questions which have caused much tension and bitterness in South Africa. The fact remains, however, that these are modifications rather than fundamental changes in the policy of influx control.

*Yours ever,*

*Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL