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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 61/85.....

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 April 1985

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to let you know about the discussion which I had with President Machel in Moscow on 13 March. I know there have been important developments since then. But I was impressed by President Machel's obviously deep concern about the failure of the Nkomati Accord to lead to a reduction in the level of operations by Renamo. He said that the situation had deteriorated and that he could see no practical achievements which the Accord had brought. I think it is right for me to add that President Machel felt strongly that South Africa was not doing enough, though he emphasised his confidence in your own personal support.

I believe that President Machel is still committed to Nkomati and he clearly continues to look to the West for help. But there is a risk that the credibility of Nkomati is weakening. Like you, I am convinced that it remains a major Western interest to keep the Accord in being, to work for improved internal security in Mozambique and to foster economic reconstruction there.

I know that you have taken a number of important steps. I was pleased to learn about your success in breaking a Renamo counterfeit and smuggling group, and also about your decision to establish an air exclusion zone with radar monitoring on your border with Mozambique, as well as other helpful measures. We for our part have been active through economic assistance, some military training, and a considerable amount of political pressure against the arms

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supply to Renamo.

I am bound to say, however, that more needs to be done if the Nkomati process is to be made irreversible. The main needs at this stage seem to be to stop the flow of arms to Renamo and to strengthen the Mozambican Army. We are considering what further contribution we can make. I am sure you are doing the same. It is vital that real progress is made in curtailing Renamo operations soon. I hope we can keep in touch on this important issue.

I cannot write without telling you of my grave concern at the shootings which occurred at Uitenhage on 21 March. I am sure you appreciate the damage which such incidents do to South Africa here and elsewhere in the West: I welcome your decision to appoint a judicial commission of enquiry. Incidents such as this can only overshadow other developments in South Africa, and make it harder for those countries which, like the UK, have recognised them as hopeful and to be encouraged.

I particularly have in mind your speech of 25 January opening the new South African Parliament and the readiness for a wider dialogue with South Africa's black community which it displayed. I have also noted other recent developments, including the extension of 99-year leasehold rights to blacks in the Cape area, and the announcement by Dr Viljoen that forced removals would be suspended pending a review of Government policy. I believe he referred specifically to the case of the KwaNgema people, among others. I very much hope that your review will result in a decision which has the support of the people of KwaNgema as a whole, and meets their clearly expressed wish not to be moved from the area they at present occupy.

I send you best wishes.

Yours sincerely
Ronald Thatcher

The Honourable P W Botha DMS