

SUBJECT PRIME MINISTER'S

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PERSONAL MESSAGE

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South African Embassy  
Trafalgar Square  
London WC2N 5DP

Prime Minister

CSP

A very good  
letter.

7/2.

2nd May 1985

The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, M.P.  
Prime Minister  
No. 10 Downing Street  
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

I thank you for your message which I received on 5 April 1985. I must agree with you when you say that it is a major interest of the west to work for improved internal security in Mozambique and to foster economic reconstruction in that country. I was pleased to note that it is also your opinion that more needs to be done if the Nkomati process is to be made irreversible and was encouraged by your view that the flow of arms to Renamo must be stopped and the Mozambican army strengthened.

My Government, as I am sure you are aware, has been actively engaged in assisting the Mozambique Government in each one of these spheres. Since the signing of the Nkomati Accord, South Africa has provided Mozambique with lines of credit to the value of R38 m. In addition, the South African Reserve Bank is busy negotiating the re-scheduling of Mozambique's debt repayments to South Africa, while a further credit line of R17 m is being considered at the moment. South African interests are involved in the supply and delivery of goods and services, supervision on site and supply of management services for the interim rehabilitation of six sugar factories in Mozambique while a boiler of the Sonef Power Station in Maputo will be repaired thereby reducing Maputo's dependence on the vulnerable power supply from South Africa. The Cahora Bassa Agreement has been re-negotiated to give Mozambique, for the first time, a share of the tariff when a secure power supply is restored.



The South African Government has assisted with the repair of electricity pylons and railway lines and bridges destroyed by Renamo saboteurs. The Electricity Supply Commission of South Africa (ESCOM) and the South African Transport Services are now engaged in discussions with Mozambique with the aim of establishing a special security corps to protect power lines and railways jointly with the responsible Mozambican entities. The South African Government has offered practical assistance in the patrolling of the Mozambique coast to prevent arms from being landed for use by Renamo. A mobile radar station has been deployed on the South African side of the border in order to provide Mozambique with radar charts indicating unannounced flights entering the border area. Several such flights have been investigated and one unannounced military flight carrying football fans from Harare to attend a sports' meeting in Mbabane was requested by the South African Air Force to land for identification purposes.

My Government has offered to send fifty doctors and fifty dentists to serve the Mozambique population in the fight against disease and illness. It has, moreover, offered to provide specialist services for the more sophisticated medical requirements of the people of Mozambique and has encouraged the South African private sector seriously to consider investment and commercial possibilities in Mozambique. President Machel has informed my Government that he does not require arms from South Africa but is in need of basic equipment such as uniforms and my Government is seriously considering in what manner it can assist. I am sure, Prime Minister, that you will agree that the sums of money involved in these projects as seen against the size of the South African gross national product, represent a significant contribution on the part of the South African Government.

In an attempt to allay some of the concerns of the Mozambique Government since the signing of the Accord of Nkomati, my Foreign Minister has visited Maputo on three occasions and has held discussions with President Machel on two of these occasions. The Joint Mozambique/South African Security Commission, established in terms of the Accord, has met on seven occasions to deal with complaints raised by both sides. At present outstanding issues are being actively pursued on both sides. The two Governments have also decided to establish a joint operational centre at the border in order to establish rapid communications between security forces and other Government Departments and to facilitate joint investigation and suitable action in case of border and other security problems. This centre, the Nkomati Operational



Centre, will become functional on 1 May 1985. In addition a secure telephone link between the Governments of Maputo and Pretoria/Cape Town is also in the process of being established.

The South African Police have uncovered a Renamo counterfeiting and smuggling group and have taken action to prevent the illegal activities of Renamo sympathisers inside South Africa. In an attempt to curtail arms supplies to Renamo, I sent my Foreign Minister in December 1984 to speak to the Presidents of Somalia and the Comoros when it was alleged that military supplies were being channelled via those two countries. He received denials of complicity from both of these Presidents. My Government also approached Malawi, a Commonwealth Country, when the Mozambique authorities made mention of support for Renamo emanating from that country. The South African Government unfortunately does not have the appropriate channels to investigate allegations of Renamo supporters being active in two other Commonwealth Countries, namely Tanzania and Kenya. I might add that the question of what the British Government can contribute to counter the activities of Renamo has been raised at the level of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

You will also be aware of the efforts of the South African Government during the period October 1984 to January 1985 to achieve a ceasefire between the Mozambique Government and Renamo. These efforts included an offer of employment in South African mines for 8,000 Renamo supporters prepared to lay down their arms. These efforts have not been successful due in large measure to the intransigence of Renamo.

Prime Minister, I have gone into detail in order to give you an insight into some of the areas in which the South African Government is actively assisting the Mozambique Government to overcome its difficulties. Difficulties, I hasten to add, which form no part of the Nkomati Accord but which are solely the internal responsibility of the Mozambique Government. On 9 April 1985 I received high-level emissaries from President Machel and in a spirit of co-operation and goodwill we looked seriously at further areas of bi-lateral collaboration.

I would be less than frank, Prime Minister, if I did not state that it is the view of both the South African and Mozambique Governments that not enough is being done by the West in terms of economic and military co-operation to Mozambique and in the efforts to stop



the machinations of influential industrialists and financiers who do not have the best interests of Mozambique at heart. I understand that the Mozambique Government is preparing a list of essential projects to which I trust the "Ten" will be able to contribute in terms of expertise and finance. I am sure that you accept that the South African Government does not have the financial means to bear the burden in Mozambique alone.

Regarding the present unrest in the Eastern Cape and elsewhere and the regrettable events on 21 March 1985, I would draw your attention to the remarks which President Reagan made on 21 March 1985 and which he amplified in a subsequent newspaper interview. You will recall that he said, inter alia, that

"We do know that there is a factionalism there. It isn't just a simple question of two groups, the Government versus a group. Over in this group there is a division and there is a sector that wants violence as the answer and they're even violent to the others, not to the Government alone."

and again:

"... but remember the violence is not just alone stemming from a Government put-down of demonstrations. You have, in the black community there, you've got rival factions and the violence is sometimes between them fighting each other. And we've seen evidence of that, and we've seen murders. And some of the 40 deaths have been created in and among the people without the Government participating."

and again:

"... there is an element that wants an overthrow of the Government by violence and is not just limiting its fighting to the Government. It is fighting its own fellow citizens, and even in the same communities."

You correctly point out that I immediately appointed a judicial commission of enquiry into the incidents of 21 March 1985, and I feel that we should all await the findings of that Commission before passing judgement on the actions of those most closely involved.

The objective of the South African Government is the realisation of the reasonable political aspirations of all population groups. The basic issue confronting



the country is how this objective can be achieved. The radical element believes in revolutionary methods involving violence and their target is principally moderate Black South Africans who favour peaceful negotiation. That is why the victims of the recent violence are overwhelmingly black moderates.

It is worth noting that the prime instigator of revolutionary violence in South Africa is the African National Congress (ANC). It has stated openly that its policy is the use of violence aimed at making South Africa "ungovernable" and it has claimed responsibility for several acts of terrorism in South Africa. In his message for 1984, the ANC President, Mr Oliver Tambo said: "We shall achieve victory through a combination of mass political action and organised revolutionary violence."

It is equally noteworthy that the ANC has clashed with the authorities in the Kingdom of Swaziland, apparently because of the refusal of the Government of Swaziland to allow it to use Swaziland as a base from which to launch acts of violence against South Africa. While restraints have been placed on the activities of the ANC in Swaziland and elsewhere in Southern Africa including Mozambique, it is allowed to operate offices freely in London and Lusaka, the capitals of two Commonwealth Countries. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been given full details of the affiliations, objectives and strategies of this organisation.

You will recall, Prime Minister, that I raised this matter with you during our meeting at Chequers on 2 June 1984. I would again urge you to consider appropriate measures to persuade the ANC to stop planning violence in South Africa from their headquarters in London.

Regarding the last paragraph of your letter, I wish to advise that the South African Government has decided to review all previous decisions regarding the resettlement of black communities. Pending this review all resettlements have been suspended except in cases where resettlement takes place with the approval and support of the people concerned.

The South African Embassy in London recently provided the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with a comprehensive background document on the KwaNgema Community. With regard to the specific land belonging to the KwaNtema Community, the total extent of the farm is 4,349 hectares. The portion of the farm situated under the flood line of the newly constructed Heyshope Dam is



1,998 hectares in extent and only 27 families of the KwaNgema Community were relocated from the area under the flood-line. The 27 families have been relocated on higher land owned by the Ngema tribe and the South African Government started discussing the question of compensatory land for the 1,998 hectares which have been inundated with a delegation of the KwaNgema Community on 29 April 1985.

Besides the Ngema Community a portion of a nearby situated farm known as Driefontein 388 IT, owned by various individual black people has also been inundated by the Heyshope Dam. The total extent of the farm Driefontein is 2,780 hectares. The portion of this farm situated under the flood-line of the dam is 615 hectares in extent with 83 families presently residing on the land. These people will also have to be relocated elsewhere.

The proposed relocation of the 83 families and the question of compensatory land for them, has been discussed on two occasions with a delegation of the Driefontein Community which has submitted certain firm proposals, presently being considered by the South African Government. Solutions to the problems in connection with the Ngema and Driefontein Communities, will have to be found either in providing suitable compensatory land or cash payments.

From the foregoing it will be clear to you, Prime Minister, that my Government is trying to resolve this matter in a manner satisfactory to all concerned.

Yours sincerely,

P.W. Botha  
STATE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

*Opinion*  
*100%*  
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