



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 May 1985

Dear Mark

Yes
no

Prime Minister
Agree that our
Ambassador should
write to the Sub-Chief
at Mathopestad as
proposed?
COP
1/6.

Forced Removals in South Africa: Mathopestad

Further to my letter of 10 May (copy enclosed) we have now received further details from our posts in South Africa on the proposal to resettle the Mathopestad community.

The picture is in fact not very clear. The South African junior Minister responsible has told us that the position at Mathopestad was complicated, as there appears to be a division of opinion amongst the community. He pointed out that while land owners apparently do not wish to move, many of their tenants take a contrary view. The South African Government was anxious to establish which residents had a legal right to land, and once this had been done the matter would be discussed again fully with the land owners. The Minister made clear that the final decision will be on the basis of the wishes of the majority of the land owners.

This approach may well reflect the South African Government's preference for moving the Mathopestad community. It is consistent with reports from our Consulate-General in Johannesburg that the Government has persuaded a substantial number of tenants at Mathopestad to agree to move, and the Government has publicly stated that a date for removal will be set. In the circumstances it is only safe to conclude that removal is probable.

The South African authorities are, of course, aware of our general concern about forced removals (a point reiterated by the Prime Minister in her letter of 4 April to President Botha in the context of KwaNgema). Our Embassy have also indicated to them our interest in the Mathopestad case. Given this, it does not seem necessary, nor is it likely to be useful, to take up the Mathopestad case as a special one on which to press the South Africans, though we think it right for our Embassy to continue to raise it with them at suitable opportunities. It would also be appropriate and useful to reiterate our concern at the policy of forced

/removal

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removals and to express sympathy in the reply to the letter which Sub-Chief John Mathope sent to the Prime Minister. We recommend that a reply on the lines of the enclosed draft should be sent by our Ambassador on the Prime Minister's behalf. This would follow the precedent of KwaNgema, where the Ambassador replied jointly on behalf of both The Queen and the Prime Minister.

*Yours Sincerely,
Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

Mark Addison Esq
10 Downing Street

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DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

H M Ambassador
CAPETOWN
DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Sub-Chief John Mathope

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

I have been asked to reply to your letter of 23 April to the Prime Minister.

CAVEAT.....

The Prime Minister was concerned to learn of the possibility that your community might be obliged to move against its will. The British Government has made very clear its opposition to the policy of forced removals and in particular the Prime Minister raised this question with President Botha when he visited her in June 1984.

The Prime Minister has asked me to express her sympathy for you, and her hope that your difficulties can be resolved satisfactorily.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

S. Africa

Pt 4 Relatives



10 DOWNING STREET

G.P.

I think you should have a
look at this. It seems that
we will be forced renovats
despite Telno 171 of 10 May.
In these circumstances is the
letter too much perhaps
Please in time?

AT 30/5

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cpc

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From the Private Secretary

3 June 1985

FORCED REMOVALS IN SOUTH AFRICA:
MATHOPESTAD

You wrote to Mark Addison on 30 May about the proposal to resettle the Mathopestad community.

The Prime Minister agrees our Ambassador in Cape Town should write to Sub-Chief John Mathope in the terms of the draft enclosed with your letter with the omission of the words "her sympathy for you and" in the last paragraph.

(CHARLES POWELL)

C R Budd Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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