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T 130/85

Union Buildings  
Pretoria

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 130/85**

MB 5/1/2-SP  
MB 10/1/5  
MB 10/1/3

5 July 1985

Dear Prime Minister

It was with considerable dismay that I received your message on 5 July 1985.

I would have thought that it would have been the policy of the British Government to wish to combat terrorism wherever it might occur and that your Government would by now have been in possession of the facts of ANC activities in Botswana which led to the South African action in Gaborone on 14 June 1985. The British Government must be aware that the ANC is controlled by the South African Communist Party and that it is therefore primarily Marxists who are responsible for the violence in my country. I wish to add, in the utmost confidence, that in a discussion with an official of my Government on 22 June 1985 the Vice-President of Botswana displayed understanding for the South African action of 14 June 1985 and added that it was his view that the ANC should not be allowed to come between improved relations between South Africa and Botswana.

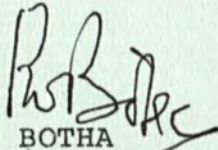
My Foreign Minister has, moreover, in this week received confirmation from the Botswana Foreign Minister that she is ready for bi-lateral Ministerial talks with South Africa on 25 July 1985. In the light of the foregoing I must state quite frankly, Prime Minister, that I fail to understand the tenor of your message.

The South African Government unequivocally supports the British Government in its efforts to combat the planning and execution of violence by the Irish Republican Army. By the same token the South African Government would hope that the British Government supports the efforts of the South African Government to contain the violence perpetrated by the African National Congress.

President Reagan has made his attitude to terrorism, wherever it might occur, patently clear and I have sent a message of support to him. Our opposition to terrorist violence should be universal and there should be no selective application of this principle.

I therefore urge you, Prime Minister, to use your influence in the Commonwealth context and elsewhere to convince the states of southern Africa not to allow their territories to be used for the planning and execution of terrorist violence in South Africa in which the vast majority of the victims are civilian, black South Africans.

Yours sincerely



P W BOTHA

STATE PRESIDENT OF THE  
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Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,  
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