

cc PC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 August 1985

Dear Tim,

South Africa: Message from President Botha to the Prime Minister

You sent me earlier today a copy of the latest letter from President Botha to the Prime Minister.

I enclose a copy of a message of 3 August from George Shultz to the Foreign Secretary which the US Embassy delivered today. This appears to have been stimulated by the message from President Botha to the US Administration.

I also enclose a copy of a telegram which we have sent to Washington and Bonn instructing them to compare notes with their respective Foreign Ministries over the proposal that Pik Botha should visit the three capitals. We have suggested that it would be wise to await the substance of President Botha's message before taking a decision on whether to receive Pik Botha. There are practical difficulties (both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary will be away in mid-August) and unless any statement by President Botha was far-reaching in its substance, there would inevitably be strong criticism of such a visit here at that time.

I will be sending you a considered reply to President Botha's message once we have reactions from Washington and Bonn, and in any case before the end of this week.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)

Tim Flesher Esq
10 Downing Street

SECRET

August 3, 1985

Dear Geoffrey:

We have learned of the intended visit planned for sometime this month to South Africa of the Foreign Ministers of Luxembourg, Italy and the Netherlands representing the European Community. I think such a visit, especially in the first half of the month, would be a mistake. The South Africans have now been in contact with us and there are events developing which may be promising. I will be back in contact with you as soon as possible with more details as they develop, but in the meanwhile, we would greatly appreciate your help with this matter.

/S/

George Shultz

SECRET

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats

CONFIDENTIAL

Precedence/Deskby

IMMEDIATE DESKBY 051800Z

ZCZC
GRS
CLASS
CAVEATS
DESKBY
FM FCO
PRE/ADD
TEL NO

1 ZCZC
2 GRS
3 CONFIDENTIAL
4
5 DESKBY 051800Z OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
6 FM FCO 051700Z AUGUST 85
7 IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
9 AND IMMEDIATE BONN
10 REPEAT IMMEDIATE LUXEMBOURG, THE HAGUE, ROME, PRETORIA
11 MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BOTHA TO THE PRIME MINISTER
12 1. President Botha has today sent a further message to the
13 Prime Minister. Text in MIFT.
14 2. Shultz has also sent the Secretary of State a message,
15 dated 3 August, text of which is in my second IFT.
16 2. Botha's message raises some awkward problems. We shall be
17 urgently considering our recommendation to No 10, but would
18 find it very helpful to have a prior indication of the
19 reaction of the US and German Governments. Shultz's message
20 suggests that the Americans may know more than we do about
21 what Botha may have in mind. We should be grateful therefore
22 if Washington and Bonn would consult the State Department/
23 Austwaertiges Amt and speak on the following lines:-
24 (i) We are told by the South African Embassy here that
25 President Botha's announcement will be made in the next few

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
File number	Dept SAFD	Distribution Southern African Standard
Drafted by (Block capitals) A Reeve		
Telephone number 233 5189		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	IMMEDIATE	Page 2
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1 <<<<
 2 days and in any case before the visit of Pik Botha to Europe.
 3 (ii) That being the case, we are inclined to await the
 4 statement before taking any decisions on whether to receive
 5 Pik Botha.
 6 (iii) In any case, we would have practical difficulties over
 7 a visit by Pik Botha in August. Both the Prime Minister and
 8 the Secretary of State will be away.
 9 (iv) Our final decision on whether or not to receive
 10 Pik Botha will, of course, be influenced by the nature
 11 of the President's announcement. If this were to take the
 12 form of major concessions, it would clearly be easier to
 13 justify receiving Pik Botha though this would still
 14 provoke major criticism here. We hope in any case that
 15 the three governments would be able to act in concert
 16 over this proposal.
 17 4. Grateful if Luxembourg, Rome and The Hague could confirm
 18 that messages have been sent to the Foreign Ministries of
 19 these countries. It would be particularly helpful to know
 20 whether Luxembourg, as the Presidency, see any difficulty
 21 about a meeting of the Troika in Europe with Pik Botha.
 22 5. Grateful if Washington could reply by 060900Z and Bonn
 23 by 061200Z.

24 6. *See my two IFTs.*

25 HOWE
 26 NNNN

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