

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T148A/85

Subject
ccops.
member

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09 AUG 1985		
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FM FCO 071521Z AUG 85

TO FLASH PRETORIA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 120 OF 7 AUG 85

INFO IMMEDIATE BONN , WASHINGTON,

MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT BOTHA

1. PLEASE PASS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM
THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT BOTHA.

BEGINS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR LETTER OF 5 AUGUST. I
WAS VERY INTERESTED TO LEARN THAT YOU WILL SHORTLY BE MAKING AN
ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. I VERY
MUCH HOPE THAT YOUR STATEMENT WILL PROVE TO BE A SIGNIFICANT
STEP FORWARD FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA AND WILL MEET
THE ASPIRATIONS OF BLACK LEADERS IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND GOVERNMENTS
SUCH AS OURS, FOR PEACEFUL EVOLUTION.

I REGRET THAT I SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO MEET MR R F BOTHA DURING
HIS EUROPEAN TOUR TO HEAR MORE ABOUT YOUR PROPOSAL.

UNFORTUNATELY BOTH GEOFFREY HOWE AND I WILL BE AWAY. I
UNDERSTAND, IN ANY CASE, THAT MR BOTHA WILL BE VISITING VIENNA
TOMORROW AND I SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT I SHOULD SEND A SENIOR
OFFICIAL, MR EWEN FERGUSSON, AS MY PERSONAL EMISSARY TO MEET
MR BOTHA WHILE HE IS STILL THERE, IDEALLY ON FRIDAY 9 AUGUST.
FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW THERE WOULD BE ADVANTAGE IN HOLDING SUCH
A MEETING SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. I SEE THAT THERE ARE ALREADY
PRESS REPORTS FORESHADOWING YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT. IN ANY CASE I
THINK IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE THAT WE SHOULD EXCHANGE OUR IDEAS
AS FAR IN ADVANCE OF YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT AS POSSIBLE AND
PREFERABLY WITHOUT ATTRACTING ATTENTION. PERHAPS YOU COULD LET
MR MOBERLY KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER MR BOTHA CAN MANAGE
A MEETING IN VIENNA ON FRIDAY.

AS FAR AS THE VISIT OF THE THREE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOREIGN
MINISTERS IS CONCERNED, I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL UNDERSTAND YOUR

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REASONS FOR NOT WISHING TO RECEIVE THEM UNTIL AFTER YOU HAVE
MADE YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE NOT NOW
PROPOSING TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST.
FOR BONN AND WASHINGTON, THIS TELEGRAM IS REPEATED TO YOU
FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION ONLY AT THIS STAGE.

YOUNG

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

SOUTHERN AFRICA

STANDARD(PALACE)

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MR J R J JOHNSON
CABINET OFFICE

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