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Date 16 September 1985

*Dear Jony,*

VISIT TO BRITAIN BY BISHOP TUTU

1. You may find it helpful to have some additional comments on Bishop Tutu for incorporation with any background briefing that you are preparing for the Bishop's call on the Prime Minister on 3 October to supplement the biographical information in the latest LPR.
2. Tutu has played a prominent role in recent developments in South Africa. His extended visit to the United States in 1984 undoubtedly contributed to increasing interest there in the situation in South Africa. Senator Kennedy's high profile visit to South Africa early this year was another direct consequence.
3. Within South Africa Tutu's position in the Church gives him both status and prominence. He has been personally present at many funerals of those killed in the unrest and his intervention has at least on one occasion saved lives that might otherwise have been forfeited in the heightened emotion on such occasions. He has been taking his responsibilities as Bishop seriously, is apparently anxious to justify his appointment and to demonstrate that it was merited. Not all of his preaching is politically charged but the unrest has left him deeply disturbed. He offered to meet the State President in August to discuss the situation but when asked to indicate opposition to civil disobedience refused and did not participate in an Anglican delegation that subsequently saw the President. His views on the role of the United States and Britain in South Africa are trenchant and critical. This is nothing new. He has described the American policy of constructive engagement as "evil, immoral and unchristian". He recently referred to President Reagan as a racist. It can be expected that during his visit to London he will express disappointment about British Government policies and in particular at the stand taken by the British Government on disinvestment.

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4. Tutu's views on investment have probably developed this year into a harder line attitude than he had at one time adopted. His view hitherto had been that he accepted the benefits of investment but felt that it should be conditional on the South African Government carrying through real change in a 18-24 month period. The changes which he had called for included socio-economic reforms such as the provision of housing for workers near their place of work and with their families, the abolition the migratory labour system, the scrapping of influx control and pass laws and support for unionisation of workers. He has also been insistent that investors should channel money into black education and training.
5. On 11 September, when addressing a three-day Church gathering in Pietermaritzburg, the Bishop said that he would organise a nationwide week long stay-away from work and schools if the Government did not respond positively to a four-part package of demands. The Bishop said that the Government should lift the state of emergency, withdraw the SADF from the townships, charge or release political detainees, and sit down to talk to authentic representatives of the black communities.
6. Tutu is bitterly opposed to Chief Buthelezi. He has been cool to the proposal put forward by the PFP and endorsed by Buthelezi to establish a Convention Alliance.
7. You will know from David White's teletype of 12 September to Terry Curran that Bishop Tutu's son, Trevor, was released from two weeks' detention on 9 September.

*Yours ever*  
*John*  
G R ARCHER