

ADVANCE COPIES

15

SOUTHERN AFRICA

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FM PRETORIA

TO DESKBY 271630Z FCO

TELNO 363

OF 271500Z SEPTEMBER 85

INFO PRIORITY JOHANNESBURG, WASHINGTON, LUANDA, MOSCOW.

INFO ROUTINE PARIS, BONN, LUXEMBOURG, THE HAGUE, UKMIS NEW YORK.

INFO SAVING CAPE TOWN CONSULATE, DURBAN.

YOUR TELNO 175: SOUTH AFRICA: REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY

1. I TOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTER TODAY OF OUR CONCERNS ABOUT RECENT DISTURBANCES, INCLUDING THE POLICE METHODS USED AND CONTINUING DETENTIONS WITHOUT TRIAL. PIK BOTHA IN HIS TURN CRITICISED OUR DECISION TO JOIN OTHER COMMUNITY GOVERNMENTS IN MEASURES AIMED AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. HE URGED US TO TAKE A STRONGER LINE ABOUT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA.

DETAIL

2. WHEN I HAD MY DELAYED MEETING WITH PIK BOTHA THIS MORNING I MADE THE POINTS IN PARA 3 OF YOUR TUR AS UP-DATED IN MY TELECON WITH REEVE. I BEGAN BY EXPLAINING THAT IF HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO SEE ME EARLIER I WOULD HAVE RAISED A NUMBER OF MATTERS WITH HIM AS LONG AS TWO WEEKS AGO. THEY NEVERTHELESS REMAINED VALID. MAKING IT CLEAR THAT I WAS SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS I SAID THAT THERE WAS WIDESPREAD CONCERN IN BRITAIN AT DEATHS AND POLICE METHODS USED IN THE CAPE TOWN DISTURBANCES AND AT THE CONTINUED DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL OF OPPOSITION LEADERS. WE WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED AT THE NEGATIVE EFFECT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS IN MAKING DIALOGUE HARDER BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND BLACKS. I ALSO MENTIONED THE CASE OF OSCAR MPETHA AND REPEATED OUR APPEAL FOR CLEMENCY ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. I WELCOMING RECENT DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT TO REPRIEVE THE KWA NGEMA AND DRIEFONTEIN COMMUNITIES FROM FORCED REMOVAL I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT OTHER BLACK COMMUNITIES WOULD BE SIMILARLY REPRIEVED. WE HAD NOTED PRESIDENT BOTHA'S RECENT STATEMENT ABOUT DUAL CITIZENSHIP WHICH IN OUR VIEW REINFORCED THE NEED TO SETTLE THE PROBLEM OF POLITICAL RIGHTS. FINALLY I SAID WE HOPED THE

DUAL CITIZENSHIP WHICH IN OUR VIEW REINFORCED THE NEED TO SETTLE THE PROBLEM OF POLITICAL RIGHTS. FINALLY HE SAID WE HOPED THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEPT AND SPEEDILY IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL TO ABOLISH PASS LAWS.

3. IN REPLY PIK BOTHA TOOK ISSUE WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THEY WERE JOINING THE LIST OF MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA ALREADY AGREED BY OTHER COMMUNITY GOVERNMENTS. FAR FROM HELPING, OUR DECISION WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF DISCOURAGING BLACKS FROM JOINING IN DIALOGUE. THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT CERTAIN BLACKS WHO HAD BEEN ON THE POINT OF COMING FORWARD HAD DECIDED OTHERWISE AFTER THE 10 SEPTEMBER STATEMENT BY COMMUNITY GOVERNMENTS, WHICH THEY INTERPRETED AS SHOWING THAT EUROPE NO LONGER HAD CONFIDENCE IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

4. HE THEN DESCRIBED THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE REFORM AND DIALOGUE IN BROADLY FAMILIAR TERMS. THEY WERE HAVING TO COPE WITH ELEMENTS IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY WHO DID NOT STOP AT BURNING PEOPLE ALIVE. IF IT ONCE BEGAN TO BE ACCEPTED THAT PEOPLE COULD FORCE THEIR WAY TO POWER BY SUCH METHODS THERE WAS A REAL DANGER OF WHITES RESORTING TO SIMILAR VIOLENCE IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT IT.

5. HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT LIKE DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL BUT IT WAS WITHIN LINES ESTABLISHED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE HIMSELF. THE GOVERNMENT WERE PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING WITH ANYONE WHO RENOUNCED VIOLENCE. HE ASKED IF THIS WAS UNREASONABLE. THE QUESTIONS WERE HOW TO FIND COMMON GROUND AND WHO TO TALK TO. HE REPEATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WERE SINCERELY DOING THEIR BEST.

6. HE SAID THAT WE SHARED HIS WISH TO SEE A DIALOGUE ESTABLISHED. THE PROBLEM WAS THAT IT SEEMED SO DIFFICULT ON PRESENT LINES TO GET THE PROCESS GOING. IT WAS NOT ONLY A MATTER OF THE AGENDA BUT OF ACTUALLY PERSUADING BLACKS TO COME TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE. THIS WAS WHY WE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON BLACKS OF METHODS USED TO CONTROL UNREST QUITE APART FROM THEIR IMPACT ON BRITISH OPINION.

7. AS REGARDS THE COMMUNITY MEASURES, HE SAID THAT OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THESE INDICATED THE STRONG VIEWS WE HELD ABOUT THE NEED FOR CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA WHILE STOPPING SHORT OF MEASURES WHICH WOULD HURT THE ECONOMY. HE REMINDED HIM OF THE PRESSURES FOR STRONGER MEASURES WHICH WE WERE LIKELY TO FACE AT THE COMMONWEALTH MEETING NEXT MONTH.

8. TURNING TO THE EXTERNAL SCENE, PIK BOTHA REFERRED TO HIS RECENT MEETINGS WITH MOZAMBIKAN MINISTERS ABOUT ALLEGED BREACHES OF THE NKOMATH ACCORD AND GAVE ME A PAPER SETTING OUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN POSITION. HE SAID HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE LESOTHO GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF RESPONSE TO DETAILED INFORMATION HE HAD RECENTLY GIVEN THEM ON ANC ACTIVITIES IN THAT COUNTRY.

9. HE THEN READ ME A LECTURE ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF GREATER SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE ANGOLA WAR THROUGH STEPPED-UP SUPPLIES OF EQUIPMENT AND THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET ADVISERS IN MPLA UNITS FIGHTING AGAINST UNITA. SURELY THIS COULDN'T BE

ER SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE ANGOLA WAR THROUGH STEPPED-UP SUPPLIES OF EQUIPMENT AND THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET ADVISERS IN MPLA UNITS FIGHTING AGAINST UNITA. SURELY THIS COULDN'T BE IN THE WESTERN INTEREST YET THE WEST SEEMED OBLIVIOUS TO THE DANGERS AND DETERMINED TO BLAME ONLY SOUTH AFRICA.

10. I REMINDED HIM OF THE REPRESENTATIONS I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL LAST WEEK ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES CROSSING THE ANGOLAN FRONTIER (MY TELNO 335). I BELIEVED A VERY SERIOUS VIEW WOULD BE TAKEN IN LONDON IF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES WERE TO INTERVENE OPENLY IN ANGOLA ON BEHALF OF SAVIMBI.

11. PAK BOTHA CONCLUDED WITH A STRONG PLEA THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD REMONSTRATE WITH MOSCOW ABOUT THEIR MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA, AND THAT WE SHOULD REACT PUBLICLY TO EVIDENCE OF THE INCREASING SOVIET THREAT TO THE REGION.

12. DETAILED RECORD BY BAG.

MOBERLY

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POHPAN 1400

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RECEIVED THIS MESSAGE FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
ON 11 SEPTEMBER 1975 AT 1400 HOURS. THE MESSAGE WAS
TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA
WAS CONCERNED AT THE REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET UNION
WAS PROVIDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE
UNITA FIGHTERS IN ANGOLA. THE GOVERNMENT
WAS REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES TO
EXERCISE INFLUENCE WITH THE SOVIET
UNION TO STOP SUCH ASSISTANCE.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
IS CONCERNED AT THE REPORTS THAT
THE SOVIET UNION IS PROVIDING
MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE
UNITA FIGHTERS IN ANGOLA. THE
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UNITED STATES TO EXERCISE
INFLUENCE WITH THE SOVIET
UNION TO STOP SUCH ASSISTANCE.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL TO VISITORS FROM
SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE HELD IN THE
LONDON OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES. THE
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