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PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE



SERIAL No. T 1880/85 REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

THE STATE PRESIDENT

R16/10  
Prime Minister  
CDP 16/x  
GABORONE

REF: PPO. 16/3 I (62)

11th October, 1985

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister,

I acknowledge, with grateful thanks, receipt of your letter dated 10th October, 1985 concerning the discussion of Southern African issues at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

I have noted with appreciation the measures which Britain is prepared to take in order to put pressure on South Africa to dismantle apartheid. I also agree that we have to assist the South African government towards a meaningful dialogue with blacks and their authentic representative organisations. To this end more may be required from all of us in order to attain the objective.

The current situation in South Africa is dangerously explosive. For that reason, we are more afraid of the consequences of inaction and believe that we should do everything in our power to prevent an escalation of civil strife.

As you know Botswana is held hostage by South Africa. We have been threatened and attacked for no reason. Following such traumatic events, we cannot be expected to defend South Africa's position. This places us in a most difficult position. It is our hope that the Commonwealth would find ways to minimise the adverse effects on us of any measures that may be taken against South Africa. In addition, we hope that the Commonwealth will assist us to withstand any punitive measures South Africa may take against us.

I look forward to seeing you in Nassau. On my return from the Bahamas, I will spend a few days in London on a private visit.

With best wishes,

Q.K.J. Masire  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

THE STATE PRESIDENT

GABORONE

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The Rt. Honourable Mrs. Margaret Thatcher  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
LONDON  
United Kingdom