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FM DAR ES SALAAM  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 338

OF 111100Z OCTOBER 85

INFO IMMEDIATE NASSAU

INFO ROUTINE PRETORIA, WASHINGTON, HARARE, LUSAKA, GABORONE,  
LILONGWE, MBABANE AND MASERU

YOUR TELNO 930 TO NEW DELHI : SOUTH AFRICA AT CHOGM.

SUMMARY

1. TANZANIA HOPES WE WILL TAKE SOME ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC MEASURES, SUCH AS A BAN ON THE SALE OF KRUGERRANDS. BUT PRIME MINISTER SALIM AGREES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE REST OF THE COMMONWEALTH, AND MAY WELL BE WILLING TO WORK FOR A COMPROMISE SOLUTION.

DETAIL

2. I SAW PRIME MINISTER SALIM, WHO WILL BE LEADING THE TANZANIAN DELEGATION, THIS MORNING. I SPOKE ON THE LINES OF PARAS 6 AND 7 OF YOUR TUR AND LEFT A SPEAKING NOTE. I STRESSED THE NEED TO AVOID A DAMAGING SPLIT WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH, AND EMPHASISED THE STRENGTH OF OUR DESIRE TO SEE POLITICAL REFORM IN SOUTH AFRICA. WE HAD ALREADY TAKEN A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE SOUTH AFRICA IN THIS DIRECTION BUT BELIEVED ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. WE WERE AWARE OF TANZANIA'S VIEWS AS EXPRESSED IN PRESIDENT NYERERE'S LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER (MY TELNO 331, NOT TO ALL. THIS PROPOSED A BAN ON THE SALE OF KRUGERRANDS: AND EMBARGO ON IMPORTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN WINES AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE: A CUT IN AIR LINKS: A BAN ON NEW INVESTMENTS: A BAN ON THE EXPORT OF COMPUTERS: AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE GLENEAGLES AGREEMENT.) WE HOPED THAT TANZANIA WOULD WORK FOR A POSITIVE OUTCOME TO CHOGM.

3. SALIM SAID THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF TANZANIAN WANTING TO ISOLATE BRITAIN AT NASSAU. THE LAST THING ANYONE WANTED WAS A SPLIT IN THE COMMONWEALTH, AS THIS WOULD GIVE QUITE THE WRONG SIGNAL TO SOUTH AFRICA. TANZANIA WAS WELL AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE TO BRITAIN OF ITS ECONOMIC TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA, BUT HE HOPED THAT BRITAIN WOULD BE SENSITIVE TO THE VIEWS OF THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH ON THE NEED TO PUT FURTHER ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA. THESE WERE NOW THE VIEWS NOT JUST OF A FEW AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS BUT WERE FULLY SHARED BY COUNTRIES LIKE CANADA AND AUSTRALIA.

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4. SALIM AGREED THAT THE COMMONWEALTH COULD FIND MANY POINTS IN COMMON WITH REGARD TO SOUTH AFRICA, BEGINNING WITH TOTAL OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID AND A WISH TO SEE PEACEFUL POLITICAL CHANGE. TANZANIA CERTAINLY DID NOT WANT AN INTENSIFICATION OF CIVIL STRIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND DREADED A CONFLAGRATION WHICH MIGHT EMBRACE OTHER NEIGHBOURING STATES. IT WAS PRECISELY TO AVOID THE SITUATION DETERIORATING IN THIS WAY THAT TANZANIAN AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WANTED TO SEE STRONGER PRESSURE PUT ON SOUTH AFRICA. THE COMMONWEALTH COULD NOT LAG BEHIND THE REST OF THE WORLD. EVEN THE UNITED STATES HAD NOW BANNED THE IMPORT OF KRUGERRANDE AND HE HOPED THAT BRITAIN WOULD FOLLOW SUIT. IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR COMMONWEALTH LEADERS AT NASSAU TO REACH A WIDE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION, STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE VARIOUS FACTORS INVOLVED (SUCH AS THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF COUNTRIES LIKE SWAZILAND AND LESOTHO, AND THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF BRITAIN) AND COME UP WITH A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD REPRESENT A POSITIVE PROGRAMME IN ACTION.

5. HE SAID THAT HE WAS GLAD THAT TANZANIA WISHED TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION AT CHOGM BETWEEN BRITAIN AND FELLOW COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES. HE EMPHASISED THAT WE DID NOT REGARD ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, WHETHER COMPREHENSIVE OR PARTIAL, AS BEING AN EFFECTIVE WAY OF PERSUADING SOUTH AFRICA TO INTRODUCE MUCH NEEDED REFORMS. HE HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DELIVER A REPLY TO PRESIDENT NYERERE'S LETTER BEFORE CHOGM BEGAN, AND HE KNOW THAT THE FRIENDLY TONE OF THE LETTER HAD BEEN APPRECIATED.

COMMENT

6. SALIM WAS EMPHATIC ABOUT HIS WISH TO AVOID A SPLIT AT NASSAU. AS AN OLD UNITED NATIONS HAND, HE NATURALLY PREFERS CONSENSUS TO CONFRONTATION, AND IS SKILLED AT FINDING COMPROMISE FORMULAS. HE IS LIKELY TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN THIS RESPECT THAN NYERERE WOULD HAVE BEEN. HE RECOMMEND THAT OUR DELEGATION SHOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH HIM, AS HIS VIEWS ARE LIKELY TO CARRY WEIGHT WITH THE OTHER FRONT LINE STATES DELEGATIONS.

7. SALIM WILL BE ARRIVING IN LONDON BY BRITISH AIRWAYS ON MONDAY EVENING AND TRAVELLING TO NASSAU BY SPECIAL BRITISH AIRWAYS FLIGHT ON TUESDAY MORNING. HE SHALL GIVE HIM A COPY OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY TO NYERERE'S LETTER NOW RECEIVED (YOUR TELNO 216).

SANKEY

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