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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL
FM UKDEL NASSAU
TO FLASH PRETORIA
TELNO 1
OF 210432Z OCTOBER 85

SERIAL No. T 195A/85

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

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,
FIRST LET ME THANK YOU FOR YOUR VERY FULL LETTER OF 4 OCTOBER
SETTING OUT YOUR GOVERNMENT'S REFORM PROGRAMME.
I FOUND IT HELPFUL TO HAVE THIS BEFORE OUR COMMONWEALTH HEADS
OF GOVERNMENT MEETING.

THAT MEETING IS JUST COMING TO AN END. IT HAS BEEN
DOMINATED BY THE ISSUE OF SOUTH AFRICA AND BY DEMANDS
FROM VIRTUALLY ALL THE PARTICIPANTS FOR EXTENSIVE TRADE AND
ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST YOUR GOVERNMENT. I HAVE FOUND MYSELF
TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES ALONE IN RESISTING THESE. IN DOING SO,
I HAVE PLACED GREAT WEIGHT ON YOUR ASSURANCE TO ME THAT YOU
ARE TAKING STEPS TO END ALL RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND TO GIVE
EFFECT TO THE PRINCIPLE OF PARTICIPATION BY ALL COMMUNITIES
IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

THE OUTCOME OF OUR DISCUSSIONS HERE HAS BEEN A DECLARATION
SETTING OUT OUR APPROACH. THIS COMPRISES A FIRM CONDEMNATION OF
APARTHEID, A CALL FOR A POLITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE SOUTH
AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY
IN THE CONTEXT OF A SUSPENSION OF VIOLENCE ON ALL SIDES,
AND A POLITICAL SIGNAL TO YOUR GOVERNMENT BY THE INTRODUCTION OF
SPECIFIC MEASURES. IN OUR CASE, THESE ARE THE MEASURES WHICH
WE ARE ALREADY TAKING WITH TWO VERY MINOR ADDITIONS:
ACTION TO PRECLUDE IMPORT OF KRUGERRANDS AND WITHDRAWAL OF
OFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR TRADE MISSIONS AND FAIRS. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE
VERY MINOR INDEED, I SHOULD FRANKLY HAVE PREFERRED NOT TO
TAKE THESE STEPS. BUT THEY WERE NECESSARY TO SECURE THE
REFERENCE TO AN END TO VIOLENCE AND SUPPORT FOR A DIALOGUE.

IT IS ALSO PROPOSED TO ESTABLISH A GROUP OF QUOTE
EMINENT COMMONWEALTH PERSONS UNQUOTE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH
YOUR GOVERNMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL COMMUNITIES
TO ENCOURAGE THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL DIALOGUE IN SOUTH AFRICA.
MAY I URGE YOU TO WELCOME THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GROUP AND
OFFER IN PRINCIPLE TO CO-OPERATE WITH IT. IT WOULD UNDERMINE
THE EFFORTS WHICH I HAVE MADE TO RESIST PRESSURE FOR TRADE AND
ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA IF YOU WERE TO REJECT
THE PROPOSED MISSION. WE SHALL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF THE
DETAILS AS THEY EMERGE; AND SHALL DO OUR BEST TO IMPRESS ON
THE MEMBERS OF THE PROPOSED GROUP THE NEED TO AVOID PREJUDICIAL
STATEMENTS AND POSITIONS (THOUGH YOU WILL RECOGNISE
THAT SOME THINGS ARE BOUND TO BE SAID WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT
WILL FIND DISTASTEFUL).

I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING
AS A WHOLE CAN BE REGARDED AS NOT UNHELPFUL FROM SOUTH AFRICA'S
POINT OF VIEW AND AS LENDING SUPPORT TO THE COURSE ON WHICH
YOUR GOVERNMENT IS EMBARKED.

YOURS SINCERELY
MARGARET THATCHER

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