

ADVANCE COPIES

15

SOUTHERN AFRICA

PS  
PS/MR RIFKIND  
PS/PUS  
MR FERGUSSON  
SIR J FREELAND  
MR JOHNSON  
MR O'NEILL  
HD/SAFD  
HD/CAFD  
HD/UND  
HD/NEWS DEPT  
~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

MR CLG MALLABY, CABINET OFFICE

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

IMMEDIATE

15.11.84

200030Z OCT

GRS 290

0644

CONFIDENTIAL

FM CANBERRA

TO DESKBY 280900Z FCO

TELNO 747

OF 280630Z OCTOBER 1985

CHOGM, SOUTH AFRICA: COMMITTEE OF EMINENT PERSONS.

1. THE MEDIA HERE ARE CARRYING REPORTS BASED ON ARTICLES IN THE BRITISH SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS THAT YOU ARE TO BE THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMITTEE OF EMINENT PERSONS. SOME REPORTS GO FURTHER AND SUGGEST THAT THE BRITISH INTENTION IS THAT YOU SHOULD BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE. THE RADIO VERSION ADDS FOR GOOD MEASURE THAT SONNY RAMPHAL HAS EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE IDEA AT CHOGM HAD BEEN TO APPOINT PEOPLE INDEPENDENT OF GOVERNMENT TO THE COMMITTEE.

2. AT THE END OF A MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, MR HAWKE, THIS MORNING ON ANOTHER MATTER (HE TOOK SIR PETER GADSDEN TO DISCUSS THE AUSTRALIAN BICENTENARY) THERE WAS A BRIEF EXCHANGE BETWEEN MR HAWKE AND ME ABOUT THE PRESS REPORTS. HE SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS AWARE, THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF YOUR APPOINTMENT AND HE HAD CERTAINLY NOT HEARD ANYTHING TO THIS EFFECT MYSELF. THE PRESS REPORTS SHOULD THEREFORE, BE TREATED AS NO MORE THAN THAT AT THIS STAGE. MR HAWKE SAID HE WAS GLAD TO HEAR IT, SINCE HE BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN NASSAU TO APPOINT SOMEONE CURRENTLY IN GOVERNMENT TO THE COMMITTEE. HE HASTENED TO ADD THAT HE MEANT NO REFLECTION ON YOU PERSONALLY. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD HAD A TELEPHONE CALL FROM RAMPHAL YESTERDAY (27 OCTOBER) ON THE SAME MATTER.

Ramphal is  
lobbying

