

cc Master

CONFIDENTIAL



Subject
cc master

cc NW
B1

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 October 1985

See Ref.

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER
OF ZIMBABWE IN NASSAU ON FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER

The Prime Minister had a talk with Mr Mugabe before this morning's session of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Mr Mugabe was accompanied by his Foreign Minister.

Mr Mugabe said that he had received the Prime Minister's message about South Africa while on his travels before CHOGM. It had argued the case against sanctions skilfully and made some valid points. But the front line states had discussed the issue of sanctions very thoroughly and had concluded that they were necessary, even though they themselves would suffer. Otherwise there would be no effective pressure on the South African Government. The Prime Minister said that she was certain that the desired effect of fundamental change in South Africa would not be achieved by hitting out. President Botha's public statements over the last few months showed a remarkable evolution in his position. Market pressures were forcing him to go ever faster. Most people in South Africa now realised that apartheid would have to end. The plain fact was that the market would not invest in South Africa or lend to South Africa until it was convinced that stability had returned. That meant a solution to the problems which gave rise to the present violence. The Prime Minister continued that she hoped that CHOGM would give a further signal that the Commonwealth was united in wanting change and believed that the essential next step was a dialogue between the South African Government and representatives of the black community. Indeed the Commonwealth might be the catalyst for such a dialogue. At the same time it might offer more practical help for blacks in South Africa.

The Prime Minister recalled that when Britain had started negotiations with the Patriotic Front over Rhodesia in 1979 we had insisted that they should give up violence. Information she had received had suggested that some ANC leaders had actually renounced negotiation as a way forward. If that was the case then we were all wasting our time. She hoped that CHOGM could issue a declaration urging all black South Africans to seek a

CONFIDENTIAL

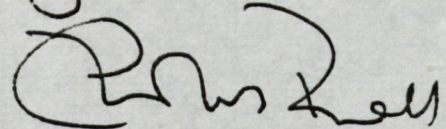
CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

solution through negotiation and to renounce violence. At present moderates were being intimidated out of any sort of cooperation or discussion with the South African Government. Mr Mugabe said that history showed that moderates were always doomed. The people would always support those who did most to overthrow the existing regime. He was ready to support a call for dialogue, but not as the only method. Negotiations were part of the struggle. There was no moral basis for asking blacks to renounce violence while the South African Government continued to practice it. He hoped that the Prime Minister was willing to condemn the South African Government's use of violence. The Prime Minister said that she was unreservedly willing to do so. But Mr Mugabe seemed ready to endorse violence. Support for terrorism meant support for those who had killed Mrs Gandhi. Mr Mugabe said that terrorism must have its own morality. For instance during the Rhodesia conflict his forces had never attacked and killed white schoolchildren.

The Prime Minister said that she was convinced that there was a close parallel between the point reached over Rhodesia at the Lusaka Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the stage now reached with South Africa. There was an opportunity for a peaceful solution and the Commonwealth could help achieve it. She was a builder not a destroyer, and was convinced that the course she proposed of signals to the South African Government of the need for change combined with constructive support for a political dialogue could succeed. Mr Mugabe said that if what the Prime Minister proposed would work, he would be content with it. But he could assure her that it would not. The Boers were tough people and would only respond to tough methods. The Prime Minister concluded that Mr Mugabe should be in no doubt that she was not ready to go along with economic sanctions. There must be a constructive alternative.

Mr Mugabe also raised briefly the question of training for members of the Mozambique security forces by BMATT in Zimbabwe. He was content in principle with what was proposed but the details still needed to be settled. He would try to sort them out as soon as he returned home.

Yours sincerely,


C D POWELL

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL