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[TEXT] FOLLOWING FOR AMBASSADOR FROM MR CHARLES POWELL PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Your telegram number 414 to the FCO: South Africa's reactions to the Commonwealth accord. The Prime Minister is very anxious that President Botha should understand that the Commonwealth is not proposing that discussions on reform should be completed within a set timescale, only that the Commonwealth itself will review progress after six months. (Though of course we hope that the South African Government will have taken some significant and identifiable steps in that period).

/ The Prime

The Prime Minister also hopes very much that President Botha will continue at least to reserve judgement on the proposed Commonwealth mission. It would be very damaging indeed to her position and to all that she has worked hard to achieve at this meeting if he were to rebuff the mission.

I should be grateful if you could take a opportunity to get these points across to President Botha.

551K