

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT
BY THE
PRIME MINISTER
ON
COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING,
NASSAU
AND VISIT TO NEW YORK

Tuesday 29 October 1985

STATEMENT ON COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING,
NASSAU AND VISIT TO NEW YORK

I WILL, WITH PERMISSION, MR. SPEAKER, MAKE A

BRIEF STATEMENT ON MY VISITS TO NASSAU FOR
THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING
FROM 16-22 OCTOBER, AND TO NEW YORK ON 23-24
OCTOBER FOR THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS.

MY RT. HON. AND LEARNED FRIEND THE FOREIGN
AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY ACCOMPANIED ME TO
NASSAU.

I HAVE ARRANGED FOR COPIES OF THE COMMUNIQUE FROM THE
COMMONWEALTH MEETING TO BE PLACED IN THE
LIBRARY OF THE HOUSE.

MUCH OF OUR TIME AT THAT MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO THE
PROBLEMS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

WE WERE UNANIMOUS IN OUR ABHORRENCE OF
APARTHEID; IN OUR WISH TO SEE FUNDAMENTAL
PEACEFUL CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE; AND IN OUR DESIRE TO FIND
PRACTICAL WAYS IN WHICH THE COMMONWEALTH
COULD HELP SECURE THAT OBJECTIVE.

AS MY RT. HON. AND LEARNED FRIEND THE FOREIGN AND
COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY HAS ALREADY TOLD THE
HOUSE, WE REACHED AN AGREEMENT WHICH WAS
ENDORSED BY ALL 46 GOVERNMENTS ATTENDING THE
MEETING.

THAT AGREEMENT IS SET OUT IN THE

COMMONWEALTH ACCORD ON SOUTHERN AFRICA.

I WISH TO EMPHASISE FOUR POINTS FROM THE
ACCORD.

FIRST, WE CALLED ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO
ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITH A VIEW TO
ESTABLISHING A NON-RACIAL AND REPRESENTATIVE
GOVERNMENT.

SECOND, THE DIALOGUE SHOULD BE INITIATED IN THE
CONTEXT OF A SUSPENSION OF VIOLENCE ON ALL
SIDES.

THIRD, WE AGREED TO SET UP A GROUP OF EMINENT

COMMONWEALTH PERSONS TO ENCOURGE AND
FACILITATE DIALOGUE.

FOURTH, WE AGREED ON A PROGRAMME OF COMMON ACTION
WHICH INCORPORATED A NUMBER OF MEASURES WE
WERE ALREADY TAKING, TOGETHER WITH TWO NEW
MEASURES OF WHICH MY RT. HON. AND LEARNED
FRIEND HAS ALREADY INFORMED THE HOUSE.

THE COMMONWEALTH ACCORD IS A CLEAR POLITICAL
SIGNAL FROM THE UNITED MEMBERS OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NEED FOR RAPID CHANGE
WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS OF THE NEED
FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO END ITS
ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA.

WE SHALL REVIEW THE SITUATION IN SIX MONTHS
TIME.

THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AGREED ON A
NUMBER OF OTHER MATTERS INCLUDING

- A DECLARATION ON WORLD ORDER REAFFIRMING
THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS

- A WELCOME FOR THE REPORT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON THE VULNERABILITY OF
SMALL STATES

- THE NEED FOR GREATER COOPERATION BOTH TO

COUNTER THE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN ILLICIT
DRUGS AND TO DENY TO THOSE CONVICTED OF DRUG
TRAFFICKING THE PROCEEDS OF THEIR CRIME

- AND THE NEED FOR GREATER COOPERATION TO
PREVENT AND COMBAT TERRORISM.

MR. SPEAKER, I BELIEVE THAT THE OUTCOME OF THIS MEETING
DEMONSTRATED THE CAPACITY OF THE
COMMONWEALTH, DESPITE WIDELY VARYING INITIAL
VIEWS, TO REACH A SENSIBLE AND REALISTIC
AGREEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL GOVERNMENTS.
ITS REJECTION OF VIOLENCE AS A WAY TO SOLVE
THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTH AFRICA IS OF PARTICULAR
IMPORTANCE.

I BELIEVE THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING IS ONE WHICH FULLY MEETS THE INTERESTS AND CONCERNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

I SUBSEQUENTLY VISITED NEW YORK FROM 22-24 OCTOBER TO ADDRESS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND FOR MEETINGS WITH OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. I HELD BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN, MR. CRAXI, MR. PERES, PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG, AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

I ALSO ATTENDED A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN AND WITH THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY,

ITALY, AND JAPAN, TO DISCUSS THE FORTHCOMING
MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND
MR. GORBACHEV.

WE EXPRESSED OUR SUPPORT FOR AND CONFIDENCE
IN PRESIDENT REAGAN'S APPROACH TO THIS
IMPORTANT MEETING.

WE WISH HIM WELL.

DRAFT

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 ALREADY INFORMED THE HOUSE.

I ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED POSITION

OF THE COMMONWEALTH IN CALLING

SUSPENSION OF THE LEGISLATION

THE COMMONWEALTH ACCORD IS ~~NOT AN ULTIMATUM TO THE~~

~~SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.~~

~~IT IS~~ A CLEAR POLITICAL SIGNAL FROM THE
UNITED MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
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