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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO. T126/86

cc Mater

6 July 1986

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Subject on ; Relations ;
S. Africa P.H.

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for the message conveyed to me yesterday.

The stand you have taken on sanctions in the face of so much pressure is courageous indeed. May I assure you of my and my Government's deep appreciation.

I am concerned that so many European Heads of Government should be thinking of further punitive measures. This must inevitably create problems for us. The extent and degree of intimidation already makes it difficult for moderate black leaders to engage in talks on a new constitutional dispensation for this country. The moves abroad to increase pressure through further punitive measures have the effect only of encouraging the intimidators and perpetrators of violence to continue with their efforts to prevent negotiations taking place. They should be the object of European pressure, not the South African Government.

I have noted your views on the issues I raised with you in my message of 1 July. We seem to be in agreement on some fundamental objectives but differ as to the means of achieving them and apparently also on the whole concept of a cessation of violence. I note in this connection that you still refer to a 'suspension' of violence. From this and other points of view, it will be useful to have in depth discussions with Sir Geoffrey Howe when we meet later this month.

Let me assure you that I want to be accommodating on dates for a meeting with him but I have an extremely tight schedule ahead of me. The Department of Foreign Affairs told your Embassy here even before Sir Geoffrey's initial request for a meeting had reached me that I was fully engaged until the 14th July. In the light of your representations, I have had another look at my diary. I could have received Sir Geoffrey on the afternoon of the 14th July but I understand that he will have to be in London then for the visit of the Soviet Foreign Minister. The earliest date thereafter is the 29th July.

I hope we can find a mutually convenient date.

Yours sincerely

P.W. BOTHA
STATE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE RT. HON. MARGARET THATCHER
PRIME MINISTER
10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON