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**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE**
SERIAL No. T126A/86

CONFIDENTIAL
DEDIP
FM FCO
TO FLASH PRETORIA
TELNO 108
OF 071500Z JULY 86

PRIME MINISTER'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH STATE PRESIDENT BOTHA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REPLY FROM PRIME MINISTER TO P W BOTHA'S LATEST MESSAGE, WHICH WAS DELIVERED HERE YESTERDAY AND WHICH WE ASSUME IS AVAILABLE TO YOU VIA THE DFA. WE ARE DELIVERING ACTION COPY TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY, IN THE INTERESTS OF SPEED.

2. MESSAGE BEGINS:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELPFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE REPLY, DELIVERED YESTERDAY, TO MY MESSAGE OF 4 JULY.

I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE PRESSURES ON YOUR PROGRAMME, AND AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR EFFORTS TO ADVANCE THE TIMING OF YOUR MEETING WITH GEOFFREY HOWE. IT IS A PITY THAT 14 JULY IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM BECAUSE OF THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT.

I KNOW THAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY IS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU ON 29 JULY. AS I SAID IN MY EARLIER MESSAGE, THERE IS MUCH TO TALK ABOUT, AND YOU MAY NOT FIND YOU CAN GET THROUGH IT ALL IN ONE MEETING. MOREOVER A MEETING ONLY ON 29 JULY WOULD LEAVE VERY LITTLE TIME FOR A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH MR NELSON MANDELA TO WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, I ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE. I WONDER THEREFORE IF YOU WOULD TRY TO SEE THE FOREIGN SECRETARY NEARER TO THE OUTSET OF HIS VISIT. I AM VERY CONSCIOUS THAT I HAVE TO MEET WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ON

3/5 AUGUST IN LONDON. I WANT TO HAVE AS STRONG A CASE AS POSSIBLE TO PUT TO THEM.

I READ WITH INTEREST THE REFERENCE IN YOUR LETTER TO THE NEED FOR EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS TO PUT PRESSURE ON THOSE WHO ARE ENCOURAGING INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE SO AS TO PREVENT NEGOTIATIONS FROM TAKING PLACE. VERY MUCH WITH THAT POINT IN MIND, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT GEOFFREY HOWE AND I HAVE DECIDED THAT HE SHOULD VISIT ZAMBIA, ALONG WITH ZIMBABWE, LATER THIS WEEK. A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD ALREADY BEEN AGREED BEFORE WE LEARNT OF YOUR DIARY DIFFICULTIES. WHILE IN ZAMBIA, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY IS LIKELY TO HAVE A MEETING WITH THE ANC LEADERSHIP IN ORDER TO PUT ACROSS A VERY CLEAR MESSAGE, THAT IF PROGRESS IS TO BE MADE, IT CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY PEACEFUL MEANS. DURING THESE VISITS, GEOFFREY HOWE WILL THEREFORE BE LAYING PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE NEED TO ABANDON VIOLENCE.

AS YOU SAY, WE AGREE ON SOME FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES, BUT WE DIFFER AS TO THE BEST WAY OF ACHIEVING THEM. I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT WE CAN ENLARGE THE AREA OF COMMON GROUND, IN ALL OUR INTERESTS.
MESSAGE ENDS.

HOWE

OCMIAN 8265

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LIMITED

HEAD OF SAFD

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PS/PUS

MR E FERGUSSON

MR REEVE