

AMENDED VERSION.

SUBJECT
CC OPS
MASTER

PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T111/87 (Amendment)

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL
DD 051300Z OTTAWA
OO WASHI
FM FCOLN TO OTTAWA
051150Z JUN
GRS 475

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Venice Economic Summit
Pt. 23.

CONFIDENTIAL
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TO DESKBY 051300Z OTTAWA
TELNO 158
OF 051150Z JUNE 87
INFO IMMEDIATE BONN, PARIS, ROME, WASHINGTON, TOKYO
INFO IMMEDIATE CAPE TOWN

MY TELNO_309 TO BONN: SOUTH AFRICA AT VENICE SUMMIT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY DATED 5 JUNE TO MULRONEY:

BEGINS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 1 JUNE ABOUT THE HANDLING OF SOUTH AFRICA AT THE VENICE SUMMIT.

-AS MY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE HAS ALREADY EXPLAINED AT THE MEETINGS OF SHERPAS, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ISSUE A STATEMENT OR LAUNCH AN INITIATIVE ON SOUTH AFRICA AT THE SUMMIT. I SHARE YOUR WISH TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL DIALOGUE IN SOUTH AFRICA. BUT IT IS PRECISELY FOR THIS REASON THAT I DOUBT THE VALUE OF DECLARATORY DIPLOMACY OF THIS KIND AT THIS TIME.

THE VALUE OF ANY DECLARATION OR INITIATIVE CAN ONLY BE JUDGED AGAINST THE RESULTS IT IS LIKELY TO HAVE ON THE GROUND IN SOUTH AFRICA. I BELIEVE THAT THE IMPACT OF SUCH A STATEMENT AND

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INITIATIVE AT THE PRESENT MOMENT RISKS BEING SERIOUSLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD REGARD IT AS A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE FOREIGN PRESCRIPTIONS. BOLSTERED BY THE WHITE ELECTION RESULTS, THE STRONG LIKELIHOOD MUST BE THAT THEY WOULD REJECT IT OUT OF HAND. THIS WOULD THEN MAKE THE TASK OF BRINGING THEM TO ACCEPT DIALOGUE IN THE FUTURE THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. ELSEWHERE IN THE WHITE COMMUNITY, THE SMALL MINORITY OF WHITES TO THE LEFT OF THE NATIONAL PARTY, SUCH AS THE PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY AND THE QUOTE INDEPENDENTS UNQUOTE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO RISK ASSOCIATING THEMSELVES WITH FOREIGN INITIATIVES AT THIS JUNCTURE SINCE THIS MIGHT SET BACK THEIR POLITICAL RECOVERY. [I BELIEVE TOO THAT THE MAJORITY OF BLACKS WOULD DISMISS A STATEMENT AS LARGELY IRRELEVANT TO THE REAL POLITICAL SITUATION AS THEY SEE IT AFTER THE ELECTION. OUR OWN RECENT CONTACTS SHOW NO WISH BY THEM AT PRESENT FOR FURTHER WESTERN DECLARATIONS OR MEDIATING INITIATIVES.] MOREOVER THE CHOICE OF INTERMEDIARIES WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR PROMOTING DIALOGUE WILL NEED VERY CAREFUL THOUGHT - A PURELY WESTERN GROUP MAY WELL NOT BE APPROPRIATE.

IN SHORT, WHILE SOUTH AFRICA IS CERTAINLY ONE OF THE SUBJECTS WHICH WE SHALL NEED TO DISCUSS, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SUMMIT IS THE PLACE FOR A STATEMENT OR A NEW INITIATIVE. I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT YOU WILL NOT PRESS FOR EITHER OF THEM.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AND YOUR WIFE NEXT WEEK.

ENDS

2. PLEASE PASS TEXT IMMEDIATELY TO MULRONEY'S OFFICE. SIGNED ORIGINAL FOLLOWS BY BAG.

HOWE

LIMITED

H/D SAFD

H/D PLANNING STAFF

H/D ERD

H/D NAD

HD/NEWS DEPARTMENT

PS

PS/MRS CHALKER

PS/PUS

SIR J FRETWELL

MR BRAITHWAITE

MR REEVE

MR RATFORD

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