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FM PRETORIA
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 192
OF 271230Z OCTOBER 87
REPEATED TO PRIORITY HARARE
SAVING TO JOHANNESBURG, CAPE TOWN CONSULATE

SOUTH AFRICA: CHOGM: PRESS REACTIONS

1. THE EDITOR OF THE LEADING AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER, "BEELD", ASKED ME FOR A BRIEFING POST CHOGM. BEELD SUBSEQUENTLY CARRIED AN EDITORIAL MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- A) THE PRIME MINISTER DESERVES PRAISE, BUT WE MUST ALSO UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE EXPECTS OF US. SOUTH AFRICANS MUST HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT MRS THATCHER IS SAYING AND NOT BE GUILTY OF SELF-DELUSION.
- B) THE PRIME MINISTER IS OPPOSED TO THE USE OF VIOLENCE AND REJECTS SANCTIONS AS A MEANS TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE.
- C) BUT SOUTH AFRICANS MUST NOT UNER-RATE HER INSISTENCE ON REFORM. HER STATEMENTS HAVE NOTHING WHATEVER TO DO WITH A SOFTENED ATTITUDE TO APARTHEID. LIKE OTHER CRITICS OF SOUTH AFRICA SHE IS CONCERNED ABOUT PROGRESS BEING MADE.
- D) SHE DIFFERS FROM THEM, HOWEVER, AS TO HOW REFORM MUST BE ENCOURAGED. THEY WANT TO PUNISH SOUTH AFRICA WITH SANCTIONS SO THAT IT WILL REFORM. SHE SAYS THAT THIS WILL MAKE REFORM IMPOSSIBLE.
- E) SHE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT REFORM CAN BE HELPED BY CREATING INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT AND DESTROYING ALL CHANCES OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.
- F) SHE IS NOT UNREALISTIC IN HER EXPECTATIONS. SHE REALISES THAT CHANGE CANNOT TAKE PLACE OVERNIGHT.
- G) BUT AFRIKANERS MUST NOT FOOL THEMSELVES. SHE IS ADAMANT IN EXPECTING THAT THE PROCESS CONTINUES VISIBLY.

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- H) ANOTHER MISTAKE WHICH MUST NOT BE MADE IS TO THINK THAT MRS THATCHER'S VIEWS ON SANCTIONS WILL MAKE THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA SUBSIDE.
- I) THE PRIME MINISTER REALISES HOW IT IRRITATES THIS COUNTRY WHEN IT IS DICTATED TO FROM OUTSIDE. SHE HAS GIVEN HELP TO SOUTH AFRICA.
- J) "LET US APPRECIATE WHAT SHE IS DOING, NOT THINK THAT BECAUSE SHE TAKES THE PRESSURE OFF US WE CAN SIT BACK AND BREATHE FOR A WHILE. SHE IS TRYING TO CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO MAKE PROGRESS OURSELVES. LET US NOT WASTE THE OPPORTUNITY."

RENWICK

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32

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