

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T32A/88



Prime Minister

(2)

CDP
15/3.

Subject cc Ops
Master

Tuynhuys
Cape Town

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ms'.

7 March 1988

Dear Prime Minister

I have had a report of your conversation with Ambassador Killen and I have studied your letter of 26 February 1988.

It is clear that, despite our exchanges, we hold differing views on the reality of South Africa today and what is possible and desirable under prevailing circumstances. My Government is concerned to ensure that the rights of all communities are protected and safeguarded and that law and order is maintained. These considerations and not those ascribed to us by an antagonistic media, were the reason for the measures we were forced to take curtailing the subversive activities of certain organisations in South Africa which are committed to destroy fundamental rights.

It surprises me that you suggest that we have suppressed all political activity by most of the black opposition. You are simply ill-informed. Indeed, the action taken was specifically designed to create a climate conducive to peaceful progress towards a negotiated political and constitutional future for South Africa.

I attached importance to the establishing of a National Council in South Africa which it was envisaged would be an instrument for negotiation among all South African communities on the constitutional future of our country. It was never the intention to prescribe who should serve on the Council or what its agenda should be. The best efforts of my Government were unfortunately maligned and discredited in many quarters although we shall push ahead in this direction.

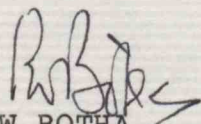
I have endeavoured to keep you abreast of steps taken by my Government over the past few years. Much of what I have done has been to the political detriment of my Government. This was again demonstrated a few days ago when two by-elections took place.

I did not expect to receive credit for what we are trying to do in South Africa but I would have hoped for a greater degree of goodwill from leaders of democracies in the West. Not only is this goodwill lacking but demands are constantly being made on the South African Government which cannot be met without effectively capitulating and reconciling ourselves to a process which will inevitably end in chaos and turmoil. This we are not prepared to do.

Just as you have demonstrated to the benefit of your nation and its people, I consider it necessary to resist the temptation to give in to pressure which often approaches to blackmail. I am convinced that the course my Government is following is in the interests of all our

communities in South Africa and I am not prepared to jeopardise their future for the sake of questionable success.

Yours sincerely


P W BOTHA
STATE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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