

FM WASHINGTON
TO TELELETTER FCO
TELELETTER NFR
OF 282355Z FEBRUARY 90
AND TO TELELETTER CAPE TOWN

BUTHELEZI IN WASHINGTON

SAT. 1021
PM

FROM A J POCOCK WASHINGTON
TO R N DALES ESQ, SAFD FCO
COPIED TO: J POSTON ESQ, CAPE TOWN
US/SOUTH AFRICA
CHIEF BUTHELEZI IN WASHINGTON

1. I OBTAINED A BRIEF READ-OUT FROM NSC OF BUTHELEZI'S CALL ON PRESIDENT BUSH ON 28 FEBRUARY. THE MEETING LASTED 30 MINUTES AND WENT SMOOTHLY, WITH NO SURPRISES. FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN POINTS:

- BUTHELEZI WAS HAPPY OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. EVEN THOUGH A LOT OF GROUND STILL HAD TO BE COVERED, THE END OF APARTHEID WAS NOW IN SIGHT.

- HE WAS QUOTE GENERALLY UP-BEAT UNQUOTE ON MANDELA'S NATAL SPEECH. THE ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN CONCERNED THAT HE MIGHT HAVE CRITICISED MANDELA AT HIS WHITE HOUSE PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE MEETING, BUT HE WAS IN FACT SUPPORTIVE OF MANDELA'S APPEAL FOR AN END TO VIOLENCE (SEE BELOW). BUTHELEZI ACTUALLY TOLD BUSH QUOTE WE BLACKS HAVE GOT TO GET OUR ACT TOGETHER UNQUOTE AND PUT AN END TO THE STRIFE IN NATAL.

- BUTHELEZI WAS VERY POSITIVE ON DE KLERK, WHO HAD QUOTE TRANSFORMED UNQUOTE SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICS. BUTHELEZI ALSO SAID THAT HE REMAINED STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, AND CALLED ON BUSH TO LIFT US SANCTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

- NSC SAID THAT BUTHELEZI REMAINED VERY WARY OF THE HARARE DECLARATION, WHICH HE SAW AS AN ANC ATTEMPT TO SPEAK FOR ALL BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA. THIS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN. A MULTI-PARTY APPROACH WAS NEEDED IF SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACKS WERE TO BE FULLY AND TRULY REPRESENTED. HE ASKED BUSH FOR ASSISTANCE FOR INKATHA ON THE LINES OF THAT ALREADY PROVIDED FOR QUOTE THE ANC UNQUOTE. BUSH HAD SAID THAT THE US DID NOT SUPPORT PARTISAN POLITICS OR PROJECTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND OUTLINED WHAT THE US WAS DOING IN TERMS OF ASSISTANCE TO THE WHOLE BLACK COMMUNITY. HE AGREED WITH BUTHELEZI THAT ALL COMMUNITIEE IN SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD BE FULLY REPRESENTED IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE.

2. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE MEETING, BUTHELEZI SAID THAT FACTIONAL FIGHTING IN NATAL WAS HURTING EFFORTS TO END APARTHEID. QUOTE I FEAR THAT THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE TO

NEGOTIATIONS TAKING OFF IS THESE CLEAVAGES IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY UNQUOTE. ECHOING MANDELA'S EARLIER APPEAL, BUTHELEZI SAID QUOTE I TOO DEMAND THAT BLACKS THROW THEIR GUNS, KNIVES, SPEARS, PANGAS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS OF DEATH INTO THE SEA UNQUOTE. ON SANCTIONS, HE SAID QUOTE BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA DO NOT FEAR A BACK-TRACKING BY MR F W DE KLERK. BLACKS DO NOT NEED INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. THERE IS NOW A POLITICAL ARENA WHERE THERE CAN BE A FAIR POLITICAL FIGHT TO DETERMINE THE WHO'S WHO OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICS UNQUOTE. BUTHELEZI TOLD REPORTERS THAT BUSH SEEMED SYMPATHETIC TO HIS POSITION BUT SAID HE RECOGNISED THAT THE PRESIDENT COULD NOT ACT UNTIL PRETORIA HAD MET CERTAIN CONDITIONS REQUIRED BY US LAW.

SIGNED A J POCOCK

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