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FM MBABANE

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELNO 810

OF 110900Z NOVEMBER 85

INFO ROUTINE PRETORIA, LUSAKA, HARARE, MAPUTO, GABORONE, MASERU

SWAZILAND: SOUTH AFRICA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

SUMMARY

1. SWAZI PRIME MINISTER AGREES TO LOBBY SOUTH AFRICANS TO CO-OPERATE WITH COMMONWEALTH MISSION.

DETAIL

2. I DISCUSSED CHOGM WITH PRIME MINISTER PRINCE BHEKIMPI OVER LUNCH ON 10 NOVEMBER. HE SPOKE CRITICALLY OF THE POOR JUDGEMENT ON SOUTH AFRICA SHOWN AT CHOGM BY KAUNDA AND MUGABE AND PRAISED MRS THATCHER FULSOMELY FOR HAVING FORCEFULLY BROUGHT THE CONFERENCE TO SEE SENSE. FOR THE RECORD, HE SAID HE HAD PUT HIS NAME ON THE LIST OF SPEAKERS FOR OPEN SESSION TO OPPOSE SANCTIONS AND SUPPORT THE BRITISH POSITION. BUT HIS ( AND SOME OTHERS ) NAME HAD NOT BEEN REACHED WHEN OPEN SESSION DEBATE CONCLUDED. HOWEVER, HE HAD OBTAINED AND MADE FULL USE OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK OUT DURING THE TWO DAY PRIVATE CAUCUS SESSION RESTRICTED TO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. HE HAD HAD A GOOD CONVERSATION WITH MRS THATCHER SEPARATELY AND AGAIN SHE HAD GREATLY IMPRESSED HIM.

3. I SAID WE ALL NOW NEEDED TO FASTEN ATTENTION ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO CHOGM, AND THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL MISSION OF EMINENT PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR. WITHOUT EITHER ASSUMING ANY SPECIAL BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH MISSION OR ENCOURAGING EXPECTATIONS OF ITS ACHIEVING ANY IMPORTANT BREAK-THROUGH, I SAID TE ALL HAD TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS NEW BALL WAS KEPT IN PLAY AND THAT THE INITIATIVE WAS NOT LEFT WITH, OR RETURNED TO, THOSE WHO ADVOCATED SANCTIONS. THE FIRST STEP WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE GROUP WAS RECEIVED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND TREATED SERIOUSLY BY THEM. IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD NOT YET DECIDED EVEN

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TO DO THAT. I SUPPOSED THAT, AS REGULARLY HAPPENED WITH NON-ALIGNED MEETINGS, THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND THE SWAZIS WOULD BE IN TOUCH INFORMALLY ABOUT THE RESULTS OF CHOGM AND SUGGESTED THIS MIGHT PROVIDE SWAZILAND WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO URGE THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE MISSION AS THIS WOULD BE IN SWAZILAND'S INTERESTS.

4. PRINCE BHEKIMPI SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED FOR A MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS ( HE IMPLIED STATE PRESIDENT BOTHA ) WITHIN THE NEXT ONE TO TWO WEEKS TO DISCUSS CERTAIN ( UNSPECIFIED ) BUSINESS. I THEREUPON URGED HIM TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO URGE THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO GIVE THE MISSION A FAIR RUN. THE SWAZI WAY WAS THAT IT WAS ALWAYS BETTER TO TALK. PRINCE BHEKIMPI AGREED TO DO SO, AND I THANKED HHM WARMLY.

5. I PROPOSE TO REMIND HIM OF THIS IF HIS REQUESTED MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS COMES OFF. ACCORDINGLY I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF ANY RELEVANT DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE COMMON-WEALTH MISSION.

REITH

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