



South African Embassy
LONDON

14 December 1985

SUBJECT
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Master

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 233/85

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for your message of 9 December.

The Commonwealth initiative has serious implications for us which I cannot ignore but I am prepared to approach the issue constructively. I hope that you will use your influence to ensure that the group approaches its assignment equally constructively. It can do untold damage if it sees itself as a pressure group charged with the task of extracting concessions from the Government and generally involving itself in our domestic affairs. Obviously I cannot be expected to respond positively to such an approach.

If, on the other hand, it wants to be informed about the situation in South Africa and confines itself to promoting political dialogue and discouraging violence and, moreover, can be seen to be unbiased in this respect, then it would serve a useful purpose.

I want to continue the reform process and to get moving with the negotiations. The sooner this can be done the better. Our political programme provides for power sharing, subject only to the protection of the rights of all minorities, and we are reconciled to the eventual disappearance of white domination. All our communities must have a fair say in government and this is what we shall be striving to achieve in the course of the negotiations. It presages the end of racial discrimination. But we need the co-operation of all our communities in constructing an alternative system of government for South Africa. I trust that the group will ensure that it does nothing which might impede the creation of a climate conducive to such co-operation.

With regard to the landmine explosions, we are in touch with the Zimbabwean authorities but acts of terror of this sort which are clearly the work of persons based in

neighbouring territories, must be addressed. We have a duty to protect our citizens. While we shall go out of our way to resolve the matter without resort to hot pursuit or retaliation, I hope that you will also bring your influence to bear not only on Mr Mugabe but also on Chief Jonathan in respect of disturbing developments in Lesotho about which your Government will shortly be informed.

I appreciate your frankness and constructive thoughts on the Commonwealth initiative. They have been helpful to me. I look forward to continuing our correspondence on this and other issues.

With my best wishes

Yours sincerely

P W Botha
STATE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister
No 10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

already : T233/85
T/A



Already received CC PC
CDP
9/11

Union Buildings
Pretoria

14 December 1985

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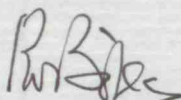
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Yours sincerely



P W BOTHA
STATE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M P
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON

S. AFRICA

RELATIONS PT 8



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 December 1985

I enclose a copy of a message received this afternoon from President Botha to the Prime Minister.

There is no immediate action required. It has, of course, crossed with the Prime Minister's own message. It is important that the latter is delivered. HM Ambassador in Pretoria should make it clear that this was sent before we had received President Botha's letter.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M.A.' followed by a period.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'C.P.' followed by a flourish.

Charles Powell

FCO Resident Clerk.



B8/6/1

South African Embassy

Trafalgar Square
LONDON WC2N 5DP

14 December 1985

CDD
16/12.

Mr Charles Powell
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
No 10 Downing Street
LONDON

Dear Mr Powell

LETTER FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SOUTH AFRICA TO THE RT HON MARGARET THATCHER, MP

It would be appreciated if the enclosed letter from
President P W Botha could be delivered to the Prime
Minister, Mrs Margareth Thatcher.

Yours sincerely

Denis Worrall

Dr Denis Worrall
AMBASSADOR



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister:

Charles asked that you see the attached message from President Botha on your return from Chequers.

mb

Margaret Thatcher
Duty Clerk

15/12