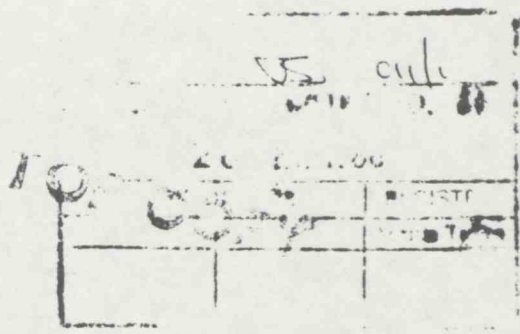


GRS 230

UNCLASSIFIED
FM CAPE TOWN
TO DESKBY 251030Z FCO
TELNO 119
OF 250850Z FEBRUARY 86



12
Cape Town
15.05.86
119

YOUR TELNO 74: REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SAG

1. I CALLED THIS MORNING ON THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, MILLER,
AND SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED. REPORT OF DISCUSSION FOLLOWS. WE ARE NOW
RELEASING THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE PRESS:
BEGINS

THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAS DRAWN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S
ATTENTION TO SERIOUS DISQUIET IN BRITAIN AT REPORTS OF THE RECENT
UNREST IN ALEXANDRA. HE SAID THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DEPLORES
VIOLENCE ON ALL SIDES AND REGRETS THE LOSS OF LIFE IN THESE
DISTURBANCES.

THE AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO RAISE THE CASE OF THE KWANDEBELE
HOMELAND. IN THIS CONTEXT HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT PROPOSALS
FOR ITS INDEPENDENCE, THE DECISION TO CONSOLIDATE MOUTSE
IN KWANDEBELE AND REPORTS OF REMOVALS FROM UITVLUGHT. THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN NOTE OF DR VILJOEN'S STATEMENT THAT FAMILIES
WOULD NOT BE FORCED INTO MOVING AND HOPED THAT THE WISHES OF THOSE
IN THE AREA WOULD BE FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

THE AMBASSADOR ALSO MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN
GOVERNMENT TO EXPRESS CONCERN ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS OVER THE
CASE OF SIX PEOPLE DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE IN VENDA SINCE 31
JANUARY.

FINALLY, THE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED WIDESPREAD ANXIETY IN THE
UNITED KINGDOM OVER THE CASE OF SIX SHARPEVILLE PRISONERS: MAJALEFA
SEGATSA, REID NOKOENA, OUPA DINISO, DUMA KHUMALO, FRANCIS MOKGESI
AND MISS THERESA RAMASHAMOLA. CONCERN HAS BEEN AROUSED NOT ONLY
AT THE DEATH SENTENCES PUT ALSO AT ALLEGATIONS THAT SOME OF THE
DEFENDANTS WERE TORTURED TO EXTRACT EVIDENCE FROM THEM.

ENDS

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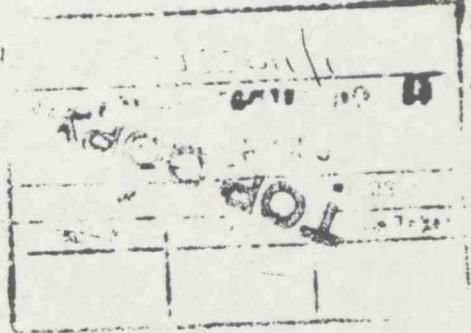
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MY TELNO 119: REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SAG

1. I TOOK THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER THROUGH THE POINTS WE HAD AGREED, WHICH I SAID WERE ALL THE SUBJECT OF CONCERN IN BRITAIN. I MADE IT CLEAR THAT I WAS SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS AND ADDED THAT WE WOULD BE TELLING THE PRESS ABOUT MY REPRESENTATION. MILLER DID NOT DEMUR.
2. COMMENTING ON THE DISTURBANCES AT ALEXANDRA, MILLER EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ABLE TO ALLAY FEARS OF EXCESSIVE FORCE BEING USED BY POLICE CONTRARY TO STANDING ORDERS. WHILE TAKING NOTE OF OUR CONCERN HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WERE EQUALLY CONCERNED AT THE VIOLENCE AND LOSS OF LIFE.
3. ON KWANDEBELE, MILLER DREW A DISTINCTION WHICH HE SAID THE OUTSIDE WORLD FAILED TO UNDERSTAND BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO REMOVE HURTFUL DISCRIMINATION FROM APARTHEID ON THE ONE HAND, AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS HOMELAND INDEPENDENCE ON THE OTHER. HE ARGUED THAT OPTING FOR INDEPENDENCE WAS A RIGHT WHICH ANY HOMELAND SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO EXERCISE. THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WERE PUSHING THEM INTO INDEPENDENCE, STILL LESS THAT THIS WAS IN CONFLICT WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON CHANGE AND REFORM. THE SITUATION HAD NEVERTHELESS CHANGED IN TWO WAYS, WHICH HE CLAIMED SHOULD HELP TO MAKE EVEN BETTER SENSE OF KWANDEBELE BECOMING INDEPENDENT. FIRST, AS WE KNEW, THE WHOLE QUESTION OF CITIZENSHIP WAS BEING TACKLED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND ALTHOUGH NO FINAL DECISIONS HAD YET BEEN TAKEN IT MIGHT TURN OUT THAT AN INDEPENDENT KWANDEBELE COULD RETAIN SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP FOR ITS INHABITANTS. SECONDLY CONSTITUTIONAL MODELS OF THE KIND NOW BEING STUDIED WOULD ALLOW INDEPENDENT HOMELAND STATES TO BECOME PART OF A SYSTEM OF JOINT DECISION MAKING WITH THE REST OF SOUTH AFRICA, SO THAT INDEPENDENCE FOR KWANDEBELE SHOULD BE NO BAR TO FUTURE CO-OPERATION OR CONTINUED INTER-DEPENDENCE.
4. AS REGARDS INCORPORATION OF MOUTSE INTO KWANDEBELE, MILLER CONFIRMED THAT IT WAS NO LONGER THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO REMOVE COMMUNITIES BY FORCE IN SUCH CASES. ANY REMOVAL OF FAMILIES FROM MOUTSE WOULD BE VOLUNTARY.
5. AS AT THE TIME OF MY PREVIOUS APPROACH HE UNDERTOOK TO PASS ON TO THE VENDAN GOVERNMENT OUR REPRESENTATIONS ON DETAINEES WITHOUT TRIAL IN VENDA.
6. FINALLY, IN ANSWER TO MY REMARKS ABOUT THE SHARPEVILLE SIX, MILLER SAID THAT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST ANYONE WHO ABUSED HIS

POWER IN THE COURSE OF CARRYING OUT HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES. THIS HAD RECENTLY BEEN MADE CLEAR BY THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER WHOM HE WOULD INFORM OF OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE SHARPEVILLE CASE, WHICH HE NOTED WAS STILL SUB JUDICE.

7. I TOOK UP THE DEPUTY MINISTER'S EXPLANATION OF INDEPENDENCE FOR KWANDEBELE, SAYING THAT I DOUBTED IF PEOPLE IN BRITAIN OR ELSEWHERE WOULD SEE THE DISTINCTION HE HAD MADE BETWEEN APARTHEID AND INDEPENDENCE. WE REFUSED TO RECOGNISE THE FOUR EXISTING HOMELAND STATES AS "INDEPENDENT" NOT ONLY BECAUSE THEY WERE POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT UPON SOUTH AFRICA BUT ALSO BECAUSE THEY WERE REGARDED AS EXAMPLES OF THE ORIGINAL APARTHEID STRATEGY OBLIGING BLACKS TO EXERCISE THEIR POLITICAL RIGHTS ONLY IN HOMELANDS. SURELY THE SITUATION HAD NOW CHANGED WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO AN UNDIVIDED SOUTH AFRICA IN WHICH BLACKS COULD FIND POLITICAL RIGHTS. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES I COULD SEE NO WAY IN WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD ACCEPT KWANDEBELE AS GENUINELY INDEPENDENT.

8. MILLER SAID THAT HE REALISED INDEPENDENCE FOR KWANDEBELE WOULD ENCOUNTER CRITICISM OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA. BUT THE KEY POINT WAS THAT KWANDEBELE WAS FREE TO OPT FOR INDEPENDENCE. IT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO EVERYTHING THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WERE NOW STRIVING TO ACHIEVE IF THEY INSISTED THAT THEY KNEW BETTER THAN KWANDEBELE WHAT WAS NEEDED AND REFUSED TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE. WHEN I QUERIED THE VALIDITY OF THIS ARGUMENT MILLER SAID IT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT KWANDEBELE SHOULD WISH TO ENJOY MAXIMUM DEVOLUTION OF POWER FROM PRETORIA. HE THEN SKIRTED ROUND THE QUESTION OF A TEST OF OPINION IN KWANDEBELE BY REFERRING TO THE ROLE WHICH "STRONG NATURAL LEADERSHIP" STILL PLAYS IN SOUTH AFRICA, ADDING THE ASSERTION THAT KWANDEBELE'S LEADERS WERE SPEAKING FOR THEIR PEOPLE AS A WHOLE IN EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE INDEPENDENCE.

9. I OBSERVED THAT THE FACT REMAINED THAT LAUNCHING KWANDEBELE INTO SO-CALLED INDEPENDENCE IN DECEMBER WOULD BE SEEN BY THE REST OF THE WORLD AS A RETROGRADE STEP WHICH WOULD ADD TO THE DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN BRITAIN AND SOUTH AFRICA AT A TIME WHEN WE WERE DOING OUR BEST TO HOLD A BALANCED COURSE. DESPITE MILLER'S RESPONSE TODAY, I URGED HIM AND HIS COLLEAGUES TO REFLECT ON WHETHER IT WAS REALLY IN SOUTH AFRICA'S INTEREST TO HOLD THEIR PRESENT COURSE ON KWANDEBELE OR MIGHT INSTEAD FIND SOME WAY OF QUIETLY SHELIVING THE ISSUE OF INDEPENDENCE.

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SOUTH AFRICA REJECTS BRITISH CRITICISM

CAPE TOWN, February 26, Reuter - South Africa today rejected British criticism of its riot control methods and detention without trial, saying the allegations were based on hearsay.

British Ambassador Sir Patrick Moberly expressed concern over recent clashes between police and rioters in Johannesburg's Alexandra township in a meeting yesterday with Deputy Foreign Minister Ron Miller.

"Sir Patrick ... registered a complain of alleged excessive force being used by our security forces," Miller said in a statement today. "His government also alleged that many citizens were detained without trial and Britain objected to this practice.

"My response was that these allegations were based mainly on hearsay and unreliable press reports," Miller said.

At least 19 people have died in Alexandra township, where media have been barred from entering.

"I believe it is significant to point out that Britain herself used detention without trial for many years in her conflict in Northern Ireland," Miller said.

PRESS ASSOCIATION 151033a

UK FILE 28-02-86 at 09:18

POLITICS Africa

By Tom McMullan PA Diplomatic
Correspondent

The Foreign Office was today expected to reject South African claims of British hypocrisy over recent criticisms of apartheid.

Relations between Britain and South Africa seemed to have fallen to a new low level after South Africa's minister for law and order Louis Le Grange attacked the British Ambassador Sir Patrick Moberly after he lodged a formal complaint about unrest in the Alexandra township in Johannesburg, in which 20 people died.

In a statement Sir Patrick had also
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UK FILE Cont. 28-02-86 at 09:18

criticised other aspects of apartheid, and complained about the alleged excessive use of police force.

This was in line with British Government policy, and yesterday Foreign Office Minister Mrs Lynda Chalker, who is responsible for Southern Africa affairs, said the South African government sometimes seemed fundamentally out of touch with the pace of developments and the demands of its people for justice.

However, Sir Patrick was reminded during his call at the South African Foreign Ministry that Britain had operated detention without trial in Northern Ireland. He was also accused
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UK FILE Cont. 28-02-86 at 09:18

of relying on hearsay evidence and newspaper reports.

But Mr Le Grange today went further and in a radio broadcast described Sir Patrick's conduct as "astonishing".

Sir Patrick, he said, had "conveniently forgotten" the riots in Brixton last year when the British Government was accused of racism.

He pointed out that South Africa did NOT interfere in Britain's internal affairs, and the British Government should follow that example.

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