

SOUTHERN AFRICAPS (2)
PS/MRS CHALKER.

PS/PUS

MR FERGUSSON

~~SIR J FREELAND~~ MR DARWIN

MR JOHNSON

MR O'NEILL

HD/SAFD

HD/CAFD

HD/UNB

HD/NEWS DEPT

RESIDENT CLERK

CONFIDENTIAL

FM CAPETOWN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 121

OF 251445Z FEBRUARY 86

INFO IMMEDIATE HARARE

INFO PRIORITY PRETORIA, LUSAKA

INFO ROUTINE GABORONE, MASERU, DAR ES SALAAM, LAGOS, NEW DELHI

INFO ROUTINE CANBERRA, OTTAWA, NASSAU

PRETORIA TELNO 8: COMMONWEALTH GROUP

1. MALHOUBRA (COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT) TELEPHONED ME TODAY FROM JOHANNESBURG TO SAY THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAVE NOW ACCEPTED A VISIT BY THE FULL GROUP NEXT WEEK. THE GROUP WILL ARRIVE ON SUNDAY 2 MARCH AND HOPE TO BEGIN THEIR PROGRAMME WITH CALLS ON MINISTERS IN CAPE TOWN THE FOLLOWING DAY. AIM IS TO COMPLETE VISIT BY 14 MARCH.

2. ACCORDING TO MALHOUBRA, PIK BOTHA HAS TOLD THE CO-CHAIRMEN AT THEIR SECOND MEETING LAST WEEK THAT A VISIT IN THE EARLY PART OF MARCH WOULD NOT BE CONVENIENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND HAD URGED THE GROUP TO COME LATER IN MARCH. THE VISITORS HAD EXPLAINED WHY THIS DID NOT SUIT THEM. THE PRESENT DECISION THEREFORE SUGGESTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT ON REFLECTION ARE DISPOSED TO BE HELPFUL OVER FITTING IN WITH THE GROUP'S OWN PLANS.

3. MALHOUBRA SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF MEETING PRESIDENT BOTHA WAS STILL IN THE AIR, WITH NO COMMITMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT SIDE.

4. AS WITH THE CO-CHAIRMEN'S VISIT, MALHOUBRA THOUGHT THAT THE FULL GROUP MAY WISH TO MEET THE THREE COMMONWEALTH AMBASSADORS ON THE EVENING OF THE DAY THEY ARRIVE. I SHOULD WELCOME THIS ALTHOUGH IN RETROSPECT I REALISE THAT OUR SESSION LAST WEEK WAS NOT SO MUCH A BRIEFING ON THEIR PROGRAMME AS AN APPEARANCE BY AMBASSADORS AS FIRST WITNESSES BEFORE THE PANEL.

MOBERLY

MR CLG MALLABY, CABINET OFFICE

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET



15.11.84