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BM



cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 March 1986

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T43/86

Dear Mr. President:

I wanted you to know how warmly I welcome the important steps which you have just announced. The lifting of the State of Emergency in the very near future should do much to help to create the climate of confidence needed for a constructive response from moderate black leaders to your proposals for dialogue. The decision to name a date on which you will be prepared to begin implementing SCR 435 subject to prior agreement on Cuban troop withdrawal should for its part give a welcome boost to the negotiations led by the United States which, as you know, we have supported from the outset. Flexibility will be needed on all sides if agreement is to be reached on the conditions for implementing SCR 435. We shall be working hard to persuade the Angolan Government to play its part.

I am much encouraged that you have seized the initiative on these two important issues. We must hope that the response will enable you to maintain the momentum.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Honourable P.W. Botha, D.M.S., M.P.

ech

(Already T'd -
T43/86)

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MILNAN 0225 OCMIAN 0225
CONFIDENTIAL
DD 051515Z CAPEM
FM FCOLN TO CAPEM
051330Z MAR
GRS 247

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FM FCO
TO DEKSBY 051515Z CAPE TOWN
TELNO 87
OF 051330Z MARCH 86
INFO IMMEDIATE LUANDA (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT BOTHA

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT BOTHA. GRATEFUL YOU DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. QUOTE DEAR MR PRESIDENT, I WANTED YOU TO KNOW HOW WARMLY I WELCOME THE IMPORTANT STEPS WHICH YOU HAVE JUST ANNOUNCED. THE LIFTING OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE SHOULD DO MUCH TO HELP TO CREATE THE CLIMATE OF CONFIDENCE NEEDED FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE FROM MODERATE BLACK LEADERS TO YOUR PROPOSALS FOR DIALOGUE. THE DECISION TO NAME A DATE ON WHICH YOU WILL BE PREPARED TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTING SCR 435 SUBJECT TO PRIOR AGREEMENT ON CUBAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL SHOULD FOR ITS PART GIVE A WELCOME BOOST TO THE NEGOTIATIONS LED BY THE UNITED STATES WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE SUPPORTED FROM THE OUTSET. FLEXIBILITY WILL BE NEEDED ON ALL SIDES IF AGREEMENT IS TO BE REACHED ON THE CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING SCR 435. WE SHALL BE WORKING HARD TO PERSUADE THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT TO PLAY ITS PART. I AM MUCH ENCOURAGED THAT YOU HAVE SEIZED THE INITIATIVE ON THESE TWO IMPORTANT ISSUES. WE MUST HOPE THAT THE RESPONSE WILL ENABLE YOU TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM.
YOURS SINCERELY, MARGARET THATCHER. UNQUOTE.

1

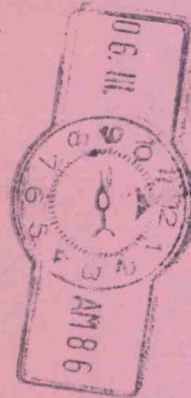
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2. SIGNED ORIGINAL FOLLOWS BY BAG.

HOWE



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 March

Dear Gen,

I enclose a signed message from the Prime Minister to Beridht Botha, amended in some respects from your draft. I showed it to the Foreign Secretary when he was over here. He was content.

I should be grateful if
it could be despatched
as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

John Rees



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 March 1986

Dear Charles,

President Botha's Speech to Parliament: 4 March

You said that the Prime Minister would like to send an early message to President Botha commenting favourably on his speech today in which he announced important developments, both internally and in relation to Namibia.

/ I attach a possible draft. The Foreign Secretary points out that Ewen Fergusson will be visiting Southern Africa next week. During his visit to Luanda he will take the opportunity to urge the Angolan Government to respond constructively to President Botha's offer to begin implementation of SCR 435 on 1 August. He could, if the Prime Minister so desired, convey an oral or written message to President Dos Santos.

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard
(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

BM2 AFA

DSR 1f (Revised)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

The Honourable P W Botha DMS MP
State President of the Republic of
South Africa

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

I wanted you to know how warmly I welcome your ~~speech to Parliament~~ and the important steps which you ^{have just} announced.

~~I am sure you were right to announce~~ the lifting of the State of Emergency in the very near future. ^{should} ~~It would~~ do much to help to create the climate of confidence needed for a constructive response from moderate black leaders to your proposals for dialogue. ^{The decision}

~~I was heartened to see that you have decided to name a date on which you will be prepared to begin implementing SCR 435 subject to prior agreement on Cuban troop withdrawal. This significant step should ^{for its part} give a welcome boost to the ~~US-led~~ ^{led by the United States} negotiations which, as you know, we have supported from the outset. ^{flexibility will be needed} ~~Reaching agreement on~~ ^{an all sides of agreement is to be needed or} the conditions for implementing SCR 435 will require flexibility on all sides, and we shall be working hard to persuade the Angolan Government to play its part. Independence for Namibia would be a great prize which could dramatically change for the better the present situation in Southern Africa.~~

Handwritten notes:
// I am
much
it is very
encouraged
encourages
you have
decided to
initiate
Enclosures—flag(s).....
There has
important issues.
We must hope
that the response
will enable you
to maintain the momentum.

/I assure

~~I assure you~~ I do not underestimate the difficulties
which you face. ~~But I am convinced it would be right for~~
you to move swiftly and steadfastly in the direction
mapped out in your speech.

