

Subject

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CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister ⁽²⁾

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T63/86

April 6, 1986

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7/4

US Declassified

Dear Margaret:

Thank you for your letter of March 20 concerning the recent visit to South Africa by the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group. It is encouraging to learn that the Group has begun a serious exchange of ideas with South African Government officials. The Group's proposal provides a possible framework for negotiations, and offers an opportunity to end the violence.

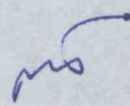
I agree with you regarding the difficulty of the reconciliation task, but I believe it is essential that each opportunity be explored in all seriousness. I am pleased to support your efforts and will write to State President Botha, as you suggest, to urge him to continue the dialogue with the Commonwealth Group.

I very much appreciate your continuing to keep me informed about Commonwealth efforts in southern Africa. In our approach to that troubled area of the world we have much in common. We will continue to work together and keep in close touch.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ronald Reagan



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Thank you for your letter of March 2 concerning the recent visit to South Africa by the Commonwealth Minister of State. It is encouraging to hear that the Group has begun a serious exchange of ideas with South African government officials. The Group's proposal provides a possible framework for negotiations, and offers an opportunity to end the violence.

I agree with you regarding the difficulty of the reconciliation task, but I believe it is essential that each opportunity be explored in all seriousness. I am pleased to support your efforts and will write to your Minister of State as you suggest, to urge him to continue the dialogue with the Commonwealth Group.

I very much appreciate your continuing to keep us informed about Commonwealth efforts in southern Africa. In our approach to that troubled area of the world we have made no doubt we will continue to work together and keep in close touch.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

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File Kb

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 April 1986

I enclose a copy of a message which the Prime Minister has received today from President Reagan in reply to hers of 20 March about the visit to South Africa of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group. As you will see, the President agrees the Prime Minister's suggestion that he should write to President Botha.

CHARLES POWELL

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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sfw

CCPC



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
LONDON

April 7, 1986

Dear Prime Minister:

I have been asked to deliver to you the enclosed letter from President Reagan which was received at the Embassy over the weekend.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Raymond Seitz
R.G.H. Seitz
Charge d'Affaires, a.i.

Enclosure: CONFIDENTIAL

The Right Honorable Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister,
Number 10 Downing Street,
London, SW 1.