

ADVANCE COPIES

35 102

SOUTHERN AFRICA

PS- (2)
PS/MRS CHALKER.
PS/PUS
MR FERGUSSON

MR CLG MALLABY , CABINET OFFICE

MR REEVE

PS / NO 10 / ~~DOWNING~~ ST

HD/SAFD

HD/CAFD

HD/UND

HD/NEWS DEPT

~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

35.11.8

CONFIDENTIAL

FM CAPE TOWN

TO DESKBY 241730Z FCO

TELNO 233

OF 241610Z APRIL 86

ms

SOUTH AFRICAN REPLY TO COMMONWEALTH GROUP

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED ME TO CALL THIS AFTERNOON SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO ATTEND THE CORONATION IN SWAZILAND. HE HANDED ME A COPY OF THE LETTER WHICH HE HAS SENT TODAY THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT TO THE TWO CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE COMMONWEALTH GROUP. TEXT IN MIFT.

2. PIK BOTHA SAID THAT HIS LETTER TOOK FULL ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT BOTHA. IT WAS INTENDED AS A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE IDEAS PUT FORWARD BY THE EPG. HE DREW ATTENTION PARTICULARLY TO THE PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE GROUP AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. IN DELIVERING THE LETTER, WORRALL WAS BEING INSTRUCTED TO SUGGEST THAT HE AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE DFA, VON HIRSCHBERG, MIGHT FOLLOW THIS UP WITH THE GROUP IN LONDON AS

HIRSCHBERG, MIGHT FOLLOW THIS UP WITH THE GROUP IN LONDON AS
A PRELIMINARY TO ANY FURTHER MEETINGS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTERS.

3. PIK BOTHA ADDED THAT THE LINE TAKEN IN THE LETTER WAS AS FAR
AS HE COULD POSSIBLY GO WITHIN THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION
IN SOUTH AFRICA. IT WAS NOW UP TO TO THE COMMONWEALTH GROUP
TO TAKE UP THE OFFER OF FURTHER EXCHANGES ON HOW TO ACHIEVE A
SUSPENSION OF VIOLENCE AND TO FACILITATE DISCUSSIONS.

4. HE ALSO ARGUED THAT IT WAS TIME FOR WESTERN GOVERNMENTS TO
COME OUT CLEARLY IN CONDEMNING VIOLENCE BY THE ANC AND OTHERS
AND IN PERSUADING THEM TOWARDS THE CONFERENCE TABLE.

5. HE SAID HE WAS SURE THE SUGGESTION FOR A CONTINUATION OF
EXCHANGES WITH THE EPG WOULD BE WELCOME IN LONDON. THE COMMONWEALTH
GROUP ITSELF WOULD NO DOUBT WISH TO TAKE A COOL LOOK AT THE SUB-
STANCE OF THE LETTER BEFORE RESPONDING. PIK BOTHA BEGAN TO BRIDLE
AT THIS, THINKING THAT HE WAS IMPLYING (AS INDEED HE WAS) THAT THE
GROUP MIGHT NOT FIND A GREAT DEAL OF MOVEMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S
PART TOWARDS THE IDEAS IN THEIR NEGOTIATING CONCEPT. VON
HIRSCHBERG SMOOTHED THIS OUT BY SAYING HE WAS PRESUMABLY REFERRING
TO THE GROUP WANTING TO LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE LETTER AS A WHOLE.
HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE APPRECIATED THE GOVERNMENT'S SUCCESSFUL
EFFORTS TO GET A REPLY TO THE CO-CHAIRMEN IN ADVANCE OF NEXT
WEEK'S MEETING.

6. THE MINISTER SAID THAT A REPLY TO MRS THATCHER FROM
THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY. HE EXPECTED THAT THIS
WOULD INCLUDE A SUGGESTION THAT SOUTH AFRICA COULD USEFULLY
BE DISCUSSED AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN TOKYO. SIMILAR
MESSAGES WOULD PROBABLY BE SENT TO OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT
ATTENDING THE SUMMIT. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT THE
SEVEN LEADERS MIGHT BE WILLING TO SAY SOMETHING PUBLICLY ABOUT THE
NEED FOR DIALOGUE AND SUSPENSION OF VIOLENCE ON THE PART OF
ORGANISATIONS LIKE THE ANC. HE SAID HE THOUGHT A PRIME CONSIDERATION
IN OUR OWN MINDS WOULD BE TO AVOID CUTTING ACROSS THE WORK OF THE
COMMONWEALTH GROUP.

MOBERLY

ADVANCE COPIES

15 12

SOUTHERN AFRICA

PS (2)
PS/MRS CHALKER.
PS/PUS
MR FERGUSSON

MR CLG MALLABY , CABINET OFFICE

MR REEVE

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST

HD/SAFD
HD/CAFD
HD/UND
HD/NEWS DEPT

~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

ADVANCE COPY
IMMEDIATE

15.11.8

GRS 600

CONFIDENTIAL
FM CAPE TOWN
TO DESKBY 241730Z FCO
TELNO 234
OF 241545Z APRIL 86

mb

MY IPT: SOUTH AFRICAN REPLY TO COMMONWEALTH GROUP.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PAK BOTHA'S LETTER TO FRASER AND OBASANJO:
BEGINS

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE SALIENT FEATURES OF THE "POSSIBLE NEGOTIATING CONCEPT" ATTACHED TO YOUR LETTER OF 13 MARCH 1986 WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO RESPOND TO.

YOU WILL BE AWARE, FROM PREVIOUS STATEMENTS WHICH THE SOUTH AFRICAN STATE PRESIDENT AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAVE MADE ON THE ISSUE OF THE RELEASE OF MR NELSON MANDELA, THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S BASIC CONCERN IS THAT HIS RELEASE SHOULD NOT BE ACCOMPANIED BY OR RESULT IN FURTHER VIOLENCE.

IT MUST BE CLEAR THAT THE KEY TO THE RELEASE OF MR MANDELA AND SIMILAR PRISONERS, WITHDRAWAL OF THE SECURITY FORCES FROM CERTAIN URBAN AREAS AND LIFTING OF THE BAN ON THE ANC AND PAC IS A SUSPENSION OF VIOLENCE.

THE QUESTION WHICH ARISES IS HOW THIS CAN BE PUT INTO EFFECT. IN YOUR "POSSIBLE NEGOTIATING CONCEPT" YOU SUGGEST THAT, "IN THE CONTEXT OF SPECIFIC AND MEANINGFUL STEPS BEING TAKEN TOWARDS ENDING APARTHEID", CERTAIN ADDITIONAL ACTION BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ANC AND OTHERS MIGHT ENSURE NEGOTIATIONS AND A BREAK IN THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE. MOREOVER YOU WILL RECALL THAT

GOVERNMENT AND THE ANC AND OTHERS MIGHT ENSURE NEGOTIATIONS AND A BREAK IN THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE. MOREOVER YOU WILL RECALL THAT DURING THE GROUP'S RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, THE INFLUX CONTROL SYSTEM AND PASS LAWS WERE HIGHLIGHTED BY THE GROUP AS IMPORTANT ISSUES AFFECTING THE DAILY LIVES OF BLACK PEOPLE. AT THAT STAGE THE GROUP WAS AWARE OF THE STATE PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT, MADE DURING THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR, THAT THIS SITUATION WOULD BE FUNDAMENTALLY ALTERED BY 1 JULY 1986. IN LINE WITH THIS COMMITMENT THE STATE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED IN PARLIAMENT ON FRIDAY 18 APRIL 1986, THAT NO FURTHER CHARGES WOULD BE PREFERRED IN TERMS OF THE EXISTING LEGISLATION SEMI COLON THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED IN TERMS OF THIS LEGISLATION WOULD BE RELEASED FORTHWITH, AND THAT THOSE WHO ARE BEING DETAINED PENDING TRIAL WOULD LIKEWISE BE RELEASED. THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO REPEAL OR AMEND NO FEWER THAN 34 ACTS AND PROCLAMATIONS TO ENSURE THAT THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE WILL NO BE SUBJECT TO DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF COLOUR OR RACE.

THESE ADDITIONAL REFORM MEASURES TESTIFY TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE THAT NO FURTHER FORCED REMOVALS IN PURSUIT OF A POLITICAL IDEOLOGY WILL TAKE PLACE. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOTED WITH SATISFACTION IN THIS CONNECTION THE GROUP'S RECOGNITION THAT POSITIVE ACTIONS ON THE PART OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE MATCHED BY CORRESPONDING RESPONSES BY THOSE NOW OPPOSED TO NEGOTIATION AND COMMITTED TO VIOLENCE.

THE COMMONWEALTH GROUP OF EMINENT PERSONS WILL UNDERSTAND THAT IF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT DOES MOVE ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN ITS "POSSIBLE NEGOTIATING CONCEPT" AND VIOLENCE CONTINUES OR INCREASES, THE GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO CONTROL THE VIOLENCE. THE GROUP WILL RECALL THAT IT RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH THEM DURING THEIR VISIT. IN MY RECOLLECTION THAT IT RESPONDED THAT IT RECOGNISED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN ORDER BUT THE QUESTION ARISES WHETHER SUCH ACTION ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT THEN RESULT IN FURTHER PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. THIS IS A MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE WHICH WILL REQUIRE FURTHER DISCUSSION.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE GROUP CAN SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE AND IT ACCORDINGLY PROPOSES, IN THE LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING, THAT THE WHOLE GROUP OR REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON HOW FURTHER TO PROCEED, PARTICULARLY ON THE MODALITIES OF ACHIEVING A SUSPENSION OF VIOLENCE AND FACILITATING DISCUSSIONS.

ENDS

MOBERLY