

16 May, 1986

Dear Sir

attached @ part 8.

In my initial message of 23 November, 1985 to Commonwealth Heads of Government announcing the constitution of the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons I proposed that we treat 1 January, 1986 as the starting point of the Group's formal work and the commencement of the period of six months envisaged in paragraph 7 of the Nassau Accord on Southern Africa. I went on to explain that at the end of that period the Meeting of the seven Commonwealth leaders named in paragraph 5 would take place as envisaged in paragraph 7. On this basis, the essential purpose of the Meeting will be to review the situation in the light of the work of the Group of Eminent Persons, and the other measures agreed upon at Nassau, and to form a judgement as to whether, in the period ending 30 June, 1986, adequate concrete progress has been made towards the objectives stated in the Accord. Contingent on that judgement, other elements of paragraph 7 could become operable. It is in this context that I am writing to formalise arrangements for the Review Meeting.

The Group itself has been particularly mindful of its mandate under the Accord and of the importance of reporting to Commonwealth leaders in time to facilitate the Review Meeting at the end of the six month period. It is their present expectation to submit a report on their work before 30 June, 1986. That report will be of immense importance to the Review Meeting and I envisage that Commonwealth leaders will wish to have it in good time. I have tried to take account of all this in my consultations with regard to the Meeting, and to find dates that are both compatible with the expectations of Nassau and the convenience of the seven Heads of Government concerned. With the co-operation of everyone, I am now able to propose formally for your confirmation that the Review Meeting be held at Commonwealth Secretariat Headquarters in Marlborough House, London, between 3 and 5 August, 1986.

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The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

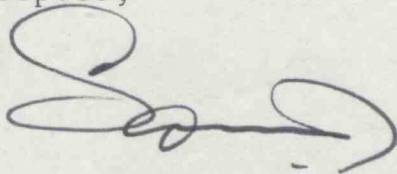
I envisage that the Meeting will commence with a dinner on the evening of 3 August in Marlborough House, which it would be my honour to host, and at which discussions can begin. Since the Meeting is in the nature of a continuation of the discussions at Nassau, it would be appropriate for the Prime Minister of the Bahamas to continue in the Chair; and I hope he will do so commencing with the discussions over dinner. Provision will then be made for the Meeting to continue throughout the following day and to conclude by lunchtime on Tuesday, 5 August. I hope I may now proceed to finalise these arrangements.

I feel sure you would wish the Review Meeting to be as informal as is consistent with its objectives, and I shall try to ensure that it is. To start with, therefore, may I propose that normal Heads of Government procedures be followed, even though it is a meeting of only seven Heads of Government. I have particularly in mind arrangements limiting the numbers of those present in the room with Heads of Government to two per delegation - while retaining, of course, the possibility of your enlarging this by mutual agreement or of closed sessions with advisers absent. I will proceed on this basis unless you wish me to do otherwise.

The work of the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons (COMGEP) has been one of the most important of Commonwealth undertakings. As I write, it is not possible to make a judgement on its out-turn; but, it is already clear that it is an effort that has won respect and continues to hold out hope for advancing the objectives of the Nassau Accord. The Review Meeting will be therefore, one of major significance. Your own participation in it is of the utmost importance and I look forward to being able to welcome you to Marlborough House on 3 August, 1986. Meanwhile, I shall continue to be in touch over more detailed matters through normal channels.

Assuming these arrangements to be acceptable to you and the other six participating leaders, I plan to inform other Commonwealth Heads of Government of them by 1 June, and to announce the date and venue of the Meeting on 6 June, 1986.

With deep respect,



Shridath S. Ramphal

South Africa Rels B9

