

SUBJECT
cc MASTER
OPS



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 May 1986

File 5 RW
cc fro
Su P Cadork

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T93/86

Dear Mr. President-

I wish to express to you and the people of Botswana my deep sympathy at the sudden and inexcusable attack by South African Defence Forces on 19 May. The attack is the more to be deplored because of the loss of life and injuries which it has caused. I made clear in the House of Commons this afternoon that I totally and utterly condemned the South African action. We have also summoned the South African Chargé to make clear our condemnation of South African behaviour and to emphasise our view that such actions can only set back the process of finding a peaceful solution to South Africa's problems which we all so earnestly desire. It is even more deplorable that the attacks should have taken place while the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons were in South Africa on a mission aimed at achieving a suspension of violence on all sides and the start of dialogue.

Despite this very serious setback, I believe that the COMGEP process is still the best available means of promoting peaceful change in South Africa, and avoiding the bloodbath which none of us wish to see. The immediate need is to consider how best to keep it alive. A major effort of will and imagination is going to be required, first and foremost

AB

from the South African Government, if we are to succeed in this. But I am sure that the effort must be made: there is still a worthwhile chance of making progress, and we must not let it slip.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Dr. Quett Ketumile Jonny Masire, J.P., M.P.

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ZZ GABOR
FM FCOLN TO GABOR
211030Z MAY
GRS 300

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FROM FCO
TO FLASH GABORONE
TELNO 68
OF 211030Z MAY 86

MY TELNO 161: SOUTH AFRICAN RAIDS

1. PLEASE CONVEY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE
FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT MASIRE.

QUOTE

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

I WISH TO EXPRESS TO YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA MY DEEP
SYMPATHY AT THE SUDDEN AND INEXCUSABLE ATTACK BY SOUTH AFRICAN
DEFENCE FORCES ON 19 MAY. THE ATTACK IS THE MORE TO BE DEPLORED
BECAUSE OF THE LOSS OF LIFE AND INJURIES WHICH IT HAS CAUSED.
I MADE CLEAR IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THIS AFTERNOON THAT I TOTALLY
AND UTTERLY CONDEMNED THE SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION. WE HAVE ALSO
SUMMONED THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHARGE TO MAKE CLEAR OUR CONDEMNATION
OF SOUTH AFRICAN BEHAVIOUR AND TO EMPHASISE OUR VIEW THAT SUCH
ACTIONS CAN ONLY SET BACK THE PROCESS OF FINDING A PEACEFUL
SOLUTION TO SOUTH AFRICA'S PROBLEMS WHICH WE ALL SO EARNESTLY
DESIRE. IT IS EVEN MORE DEPLORABLE THAT THE ATTACKS SHOULD HAVE
TAKEN PLACE WHILE THE COMMONWEALTH GROUP OF EMINENT PERSONS WERE
IN SOUTH AFRICA ON A MISSION AIMED AT ACHIEVING A SUSPENSION OF
VIOLENCE ON ALL SIDES AND THE START OF DIALOGUE.
DESPITE THIS VERY SERIOUS SETBACK, I BELIEVE THAT THE COMGEP
PROCESS IS STILL THE BEST AVAILABLE MEANS OR PROMOTING PEACEFUL
CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND AVOIDING THE BLOODBATH WHICH NONE
OF US WISH TO SEE. THE IMMEDIATE NEED IS TO CONSIDER HOW BEST

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TO KEEP IT ALIVE. A MAJOR EFFORT OF WILL AND IMAGINATION IS GOING TO BE REQUIRED, FIRST AND FOREMOST FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED IN THIS. BUT I AM SURE THAT THE EFFORT MUST BE MADE: THERE IS STILL A WORTHWHILE CHANCE OF MAKING PROGRESS, AND WE MUST NOT LET IT SLIP.

WITH WARM REGARDS

UNQUOTE

2. SIMILAR MESSAGES ARE ALSO BEING SENT TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND MR MUGABE.
3. ORIGINALS FOLLOW BY BAG.

HOWE

SOUTH AFRICA

LIMITED

SAFD

CAFD

UND - *CCD*

ECD(E)

NEWS DEPT.

LEGAL ADVISERS

PLANNING STAFF

CONS DEPT.

SCD

PUSD

DEFENCE DEPT.

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MRS CHALKER

PS/PUS

MR DEREK THOMAS

MR FERGUSSON

MR REEVE

CABINET OFFICE

COPIES TO:

GS SEC (2) / MOD

ASSESSMENT STAFF, CABINET OFFICE.

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File 116

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

21 May 1986

Thank you for your letter of 20 May enclosing draft messages from the Prime Minister to Presidents Kaunda and Masire and Prime Minister Mugabe.

I enclose originals of the messages signed by the Prime Minister. You will no doubt want to telegraph the text as quickly as possible.

CHARLES POWELL

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 May 1986

Dear Charles,

As he told the Prime Minister this morning, the Foreign Secretary believes that there is a strong case for her to send an early message to President Botha, making quite clear our disapproval of the South African raids on Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe. However, before putting forward a draft he wishes first to discuss yesterday's events and their implications with Lord Barber, whom he will be meeting on 21 May.

Meanwhile he thinks it important that the Prime Minister should send messages of sympathy to Presidents Kaunda, Mugabe and Masire.

Clearly the wording of the individual messages should be consistent with the public position we have already adopted and, in the case of Botswana, with the words the Prime Minister used to President Masire in June last year following the last South African attack on Gaborone.

I enclose draft messages.

*Yours ever,**Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

President Masire

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

SRWADU

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

I wish to express to you and the people of Zimbabwe my deep sympathy and shock at the sudden and indefensible attack by South African Defence Forces on 19 May. I am particularly saddened to hear that the raid has caused death and injury.

As you may know, later the same day in Parliament the Foreign Secretary condemned South Africa's action as a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of three fellow Commonwealth countries. The Minister of State, Lynda Chalker, had by then already summoned the South African Chargé. She made clear to him our total condemnation of South African behaviour and emphasised our view that such actions can only set back the process of finding a peaceful solution to South Africa's problems which we all so earnestly desire. It is even more deplorable that the attacks should have taken place while the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons were in South Africa on a mission aimed at achieving a suspension of violence on all sides and the start of dialogue.

as for first draft

Enclosures—flag(s).....

/Despite

Despite this very serious setback, I believe that the COMGEP process is still the best available means of promoting peaceful change in South Africa, and avoiding the bloodbath which none of us wish to see. The immediate need is to consider how best to keep it alive. A major effort of will and imagination is going to be required, first and foremost from the South African Government, if we are to succeed in this. But I am sure that the effort must be made: there is still a worthwhile chance of making progress, and we must not let it slip.

With warm regards.