

ZCZC
HPLNAN 4831 CFPOAN 0495
CONFIDENTIAL
DD 201700Z FCOLN
FM CAPEM TO FCOLN
201530Z MAY
GRS 310

CONFIDENTIAL
FM CAPE TOWN
TO DESKBY 201700Z FCO
TELNO 282
OF 201530Z MAY 86

No 10 (VIA TUBE) DD
201634
IMMEDIATE
ADVANCE COPY

MY TELNO 278 : SOUTH AFRICAN RAIDS : MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BOTHA

1. I WAS SUMMONED THIS AFTERNOON BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO RECEIVE A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT BOTHA TO THE PRIME MINISTER DATED 19 MAY. TEXT IN MIFT. SIMILAR MESSAGES ARE BEING SENT TO THE OTHER TOKYO SEVEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

2. HAVING READ THE LETTER I SAID I WISHED TO MAKE TWO IMMEDIATE COMMENTS :

(A) THE PRESIDENT IMPLIED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NO WORD FROM MRS THATCHER SINCE TOKYO, YET SHE HAD IN FACT WRITTEN TO HIM IN THE DIRECT AFTERMATH OF THE TOKYO MEETING. THE DFA'S EXPLANATION WAS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD RECEIVED NO RESPONSE ON THE TWO SPECIFIC ISSUES MENTIONED IN THE FIRST PART OF HIS LETTER, NAMELY A POSSIBLE CONTINUATION OF VIOLENCE AND THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ANC.

(B) I TOOK UP THE REFERENCE TO 'TERRORIST FORCES REMAIN ADAMANT THAT THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN A NEGOTIATING PROCESS'. I SAID THIS PART OF THE EXPLANATION FOR THE SADF RAIDS WOULD BE RECEIVED WITH ASTONISHMENT IN LONDON, GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE COMMONWEALTH GROUP HAD JUST BEEN EXPLORING THIS VERY POINT WITH THE ANC AND WERE IN CAPE TOWN FOR FURTHER TALKS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AT THE TIME OF THE RAIDS.

3. I ADDED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD ALREADY KNOW THAT NEWS OF THE RAIDS HAD BEEN VERY BADLY RECEIVED IN LONDON. I TOOK HIM THROUGH AN EXCERPT OF YOUR REMARKS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. I SAID WE WERE AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR THESE ATTACKS AGAINST THE TERRITORY OF THREE OF OUR COMMONWEALTH PARTNERS, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN THE COMMONWEALTH GROUP WERE IN CAPE TOWN. I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED YESTERDAY TO REQUEST A MEETING WITH HIS MINISTER FOR WHICH I WAS STILL WAITING. ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER WOULD OF COURSE ANSWER SOME OF OUR QUESTIONS I STILL HOPED FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE P.M. BOTHA AND TO ASK HIM PARTICULARLY WHAT WE WERE TO MAKE OF THE TIMING OF THEIR DECISION TO LAUNCH THESE RAIDS AND HOW THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT NOW VIEWED EFFORTS TO END VIOLENCE THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH INITIATIVE IN THE LIGHT OF THE RAIDS AND THEIR OWN MEETING WITH THE GROUP YESTERDAY.

4. PLEASE REPEAT AS NECESSARY.

MOBERLY