

ZCZC

HPLNAN 6418 CFPOAN 0513

CONFIDENTIAL

TT FCOLN

FM CAPEM TO FCOLN

231345Z MAY

GRS 330

em

CONFIDENTIAL

FM CAPE TOWN

TO TELELETTER FCO

TELELETTER REF 022/1

OF 231345Z MAY 86

FROM M J GRIFFITHS , CAPE TOWN
FOLLOWING FOR C T W HUMFREY ESQ, SAFD, FCO

SUBJECT COMGEP: PRESS LEAKS

SUMMARY

1. A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT COMMONWEALTH GROUP'S MEETING WITH MANDELA HAS APPEARED IN THE LOCAL PRESS.

DETAIL

2. "THE CAPE TIMES" TODAY (23 MAY) CARRIES A STORY BY JOHN BATTERSBY, THEIR LONDON CORRESPONDENT , ON WHAT TRANSPIRED AT THE MEETING BETWEEN COMGEP AND NELSON MANDELA ON 17 MAY. BATTERSBY'S FACTS ARE ACCURATE. HE REPORTS MANDELA AS HAVING AGREED TO COMGEP'S NEGOTIATING CONCEPT, WHICH INCLUDES THE RELEASE OF MANDELA, UNBANNING OF THE ANC, AND IN RETURN A SUSPENSION OF VIOLENCE BY THE ANC.

3. WE ARE SENDING A COPY OF BATTERSBY'S REPORT AND A MORE SPECULATIVE ARTICLE IN THE SAME NEWSPAPER, ALSO BY BATTERSBY ON THE QUESTION OF COMGEP'S FUTURE AFTER THE SADF RAIDS.

4. EDDIE BOTHA, THE POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE AFRIKAANS
NEWSPAPER 'RAPPORT' HAS TOLD US THAT BATTERSBY'S SOURCE FOR THE
MANDELA REPORT IS DENNIS WORRALL. BOTHA KNOWS THIS AS HE HAS
RECEIVED THE SAME INFORMATION FROM HIS OWN COLLEAGUE IN LONDON,
QUOTING WORRALL. BOTHA HAS ALSO TOLD US THAT HE AND SELECTED OTHER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENTS RECEIVE REGULAR OFF-THE-RECORD BRIEFINGS
FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON CONGEP. THESE BRIEFINGS
ENCOMPASS TO COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE SOUTH
AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND CONGEP, AND TO PRESIDENT BOTHA'S CORRESPONDENCE
WITH THE SEVEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ATTENDING THE TOKYO SUMMIT.
CONGEP'S 'NEGOTIATING CONCEPT' PROPOSALS HAVE ALSO BEEN SHOWN TO
THESE CORRESPONDENTS.

5. ALTHOUGH BOTHA HAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MOTIVE BEHIND THIS
DELIBERATE LEAKING IN THE PAST HAS BEEN TO ADD THE MOMENTUM OF
CONGEP'S INITIATIVE HE IS PUZZLED AT DR WORRALL'S LATEST LEAK.
PRESIDENT BOTHA IS KNOWN TO BE ANGRY AT THE LEAKS, AND THIS LATEST
INSTANCE WOULD, IN EDDIE BOTHA'S VIEW, LAY WORRALL'S JOB "ON
THE LINE".

COMMENT

6. WE HAVE SUSPECTED FOR SOME TIME THAT FOREIGN MINISTER PIK BOTHA
HAS BEEN BEHIND THE LEAKS, AND THAT HIS MOTIVE HAD BEEN TO IMPROVE
THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS OF THE CONGEP INITIATIVE.

7. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE EXACT MOTIVES FOR THE LEAKING OF
MANDELA'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONGEP PROPOSALS. IT COULD BE THAT
THIS IS A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO KEEP THE INITIATIVE ALIVE.

SIGNED..... J GRIFFITHS