

SUBJECT
cc OPS
master



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 June 1986

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 105/86

Jean M. President

Clearly we were both upset by the other's reaction to recent events. We ought now to put this behind us. What matters is that we should both do all we can to keep alive the hope of progress offered by the Commonwealth Group's initiative. If that breaks down, the ANC will rejoice as will all those who want a violent solution. My own credibility in trying any other way forward will be greatly diminished.

I have seen your Foreign Minister's letter to the Co-Chairmen of the Commonwealth Group giving your response to the Group's negotiating concept and saying that your Government would welcome further discussions with the Group. The Group are meeting here next week. I do not yet know what their reaction will be, but I very much hope that they will decide to continue the discussions. I shall do what I can to encourage this.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Honourable P.W. Botha, DMS.

ORIGINAL ON 360
JSS 1026 b

JSS center
Entg 30 m
kp
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CONFIDENTIAL/DEDIP

OCMIAN 0517
CONFIDENTIAL
DD 021600Z CAPEM
FM FCOLN TO CAPEM
021300Z MAY
GRS 262

CONFIDENTIAL
DEDIP
FM FCO
TO DESKBY 021600Z CAPETOWN
TELNO 157
OF 021300Z JUNE 86
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

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(WASHINGTON PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)
YOUR TELNO 295: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BOTHA.

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
TO PRESIDENT BOTHA DATED 1 JUNE. SIGNED ORIGINAL FOLLOWS
BY BAG.
LETTER BEGINS QUOTE ...

DEAR MR PRESIDENT, CLEARLY WE WERE BOTH UPSET BY THE OTHER'S
REACTION TO RECENT EVENTS. WE OUGHT NOW TO PUT THIS BEHIND US.
WHAT MATTERS IS THAT WE SHOULD BOTH DO ALL WE CAN TO KEEP ALIVE
THE HOPE OF PROGRESS OFFERED BY THE COMMONWEALTH GROUP'S
INITIATIVE. IF THAT BREAKS DOWN, THE ANC WILL REJOICE AS WILL
ALL THOSE WHO WANT A VIOLENT SOLUTION. MY OWN CREDIBILITY IN
TRYING ANY OTHER WAY FORWARD WILL BE GREATLY DIMINISHED.

I HAVE SEEN YOUR FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER TO THE CO-CHAIRMEN
OF THE COMMONWEALTH GROUP GIVING YOUR RESPONSE TO THE GROUP'S
NEGOTIATING CONCEPT AND SAYING THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME
FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GROUP. THE GROUP ARE MEETING HERE
NEXT WEEK. I DO NOT YET KNOW WHAT THEIR REACTION WILL BE, BUT
I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THEY WILL DECIDE TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS
I SHALL DO WHAT I CAN TO ENCOURAGE THIS.

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YOURS SINCERELY MARGARET THATCHER. LETTER ENDS UNQUOTE.

HOWE

OCMIAN 0517

NNNN

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PS

PS LADY YOUNG

PS/MRS CHALKER

PS/PUS

MR DEREK THOMAS

MR E FERGUSSON

MR REEVE

ADDITIONAL COPIES TO:

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

MR MALLABY, CABINET OFFICE

ASSESSMENTS STAFF, CABINET OFFICE



CONFIDENTIAL



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nc
cpc

**10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA**

From the Private Secretary

1 June 1986

**SOUTH AFRICA: MESSAGE TO
PRESIDENT BOTHA**

Robert Culshaw's letter of 30 May enclosed a draft reply from the Prime Minister to President Botha's recent message.

The Prime Minister has signed a rather amended version of the reply. I should be grateful if you could arrange for the text to be telegraphed to our Embassy in Cape Town and despatch the original by bag in due course.

(CHARLES POWELL)

The Resident Clerk,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

nc