



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

late - SP
96 ccl
16 JUNE 1986

I enclose a copy of a letter which I have received from the South African Embassy asking that the Prime Minister be informed of the interception of a significant quantity of arms and ammunition being conveyed to the ANC in South Africa. I should be grateful to know whether you consider any reply appropriate. Such consideration might be linked to the question whether the Prime Minister should send a message of sympathy at the recent bomb attack in Durban. I should be grateful for advice by 1700 hours on 17 June.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to John Howe (Ministry of Defence) and Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

C D POWELL

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

VS

CSC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 June 1986

R 24/4

**THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

Dear Charles,

Attached

CSD
24/6.

Letter from the South African Embassy: ANC Arms

In my letter of 18 June, I undertook to let you have any information we received from our Posts at Mbabane and Cape Town about the alleged interception of an ANC arms shipment at the Golela border post in South Africa.

We have now heard from Mbabane and Pretoria. The Swazi Assistant Police Commissioner (Intelligence) has informed the High Commission that a car driven by a Swazi woman was indeed apprehended on 13 June as it proceeded through the Golela border post after passing through the corresponding Swaziland border post of Lavumisa. A police sniffer dog detected explosives in the car, and this led to the discovery of an RPG rocket launcher with missiles, AK47 rifles with ammunition, limpet mines, plastic explosives and ANC literature.

According to the Assistant Commissioner, interrogation of the driver had revealed that she might not have known anything about the cargo. It might have been planted by her boyfriend, a black South African and known ANC activist, who had been expelled by the Swaziland authorities to Lusaka but had returned to the country via Mozambique. The Assistant Commissioner also told the Post that the woman's car was being followed at a distance by another car containing several men. On learning what had happened, this second car turned around and returned in to Swaziland.

The High Commission have advised us that the Swazis received most of the above information from their regular liaison with the South African trade mission in Mbabane, although their Lavumisa police post had confirmed some of it. Their information squares generally with that contained in the letter from the South African Embassy to the Prime Minister. Where it differs is in the suggestion by the Embassy that the car was being delivered to a known ANC member in Swaziland. According to the account given to our High Commission, the car was travelling in the opposite direction, ie from Swaziland to South Africa.

The Embassy at Pretoria have consulted the South African Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) who have handed over a list obtained from the Security Forces of the weapons and

/ammunition



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ammunition found in the car. The DFA said that all the indications were that the explosive devices were intended for use on 16 June, the anniversary of the Soweto riots in 1976, some in the form of car bombs. The Embassy do not think that the message to the Prime Minister was intended to imply criticism of the Swazi authorities. Indeed, the South Africans have recently expressed themselves well satisfied with the level of cooperation between the two countries. It was intended rather as further evidence of the threat of terrorism from the ANC, and perhaps partly to justify the state of emergency.

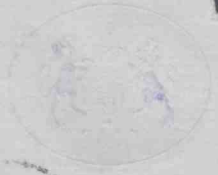
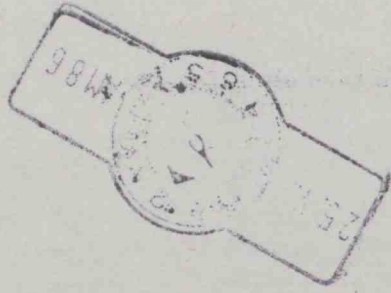
Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

South Africa. part 10
relations



CONFIDENTIAL

CLPC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 June 1986

CDP
H/G.

Dear Charles,

Letter from the South African Embassy: ANC Arms

Thank you for your letter enclosing a copy of one from the South African Embassy, asking that the Prime Minister be informed of the alleged interception of an ANC arms shipment. We do not believe that a substantive reply is necessary. But we have asked our posts in Mbabane and Cape Town to let us have urgently any information they can obtain about this incident. I will let you know what they report.

The possibility of a message of sympathy from the Prime Minister about the recent bomb attack in Durban fits naturally with the proposal that she should shortly send a letter to President Botha (your letter of 12 June). We will ensure that our draft letter covers this point.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

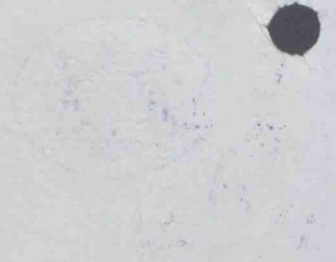
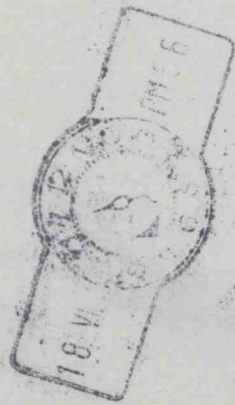
(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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SOUTH AFRICA: Relations: PE 10

Foreign Office & Consular Affairs
Room 10, 11 & 12





South African Embassy
Trafalgar Square
LONDON WC2N 5DP

16 June 1986

File in S. African file
ms

Prime Minister

CDP
16/6

Mr C D Powell
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Mr Powell

The State President has asked that Prime Minister Thatcher be informed of an incident on 13 June 1986 which has serious implications for South Africa's security interests and for regional security.

A motor vehicle driven by a black woman containing the following arsenal of weapons and ammunition was apprehended at the Swaziland border port Gollel on 13 June. A definite ANC link was established in that the vehicle was to have been delivered to a known ANC member in Swaziland.

One RPG 7 rocket launcher
Two RPG 7 missiles and boosters
Two AK47 rifles
Eight AK magazines
Two hundred and forty rounds AK ammunition
Five limpid mines and detonators
Four KG plastic explosives
Ten F1 handgrenades
Ten RGD5 handgrenades and detonators
Two RGD3 handgrenades and detonators
Detonators and electrical cord

This arms cache find comes of course in the wake of the horrific car-bomb explosion in Durban on 14 June in which three people died and 69 were injured. The bomb went off at 9.45 pm outside a hotel restaurant.

It would be much appreciated if you could assist in conveying this information to the Prime Minister.

Very sincerely

L H Evans

L H Evans
MINISTER



Optimum

100%

Prag





File *SP*

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

16 June 1986

Thank you for your letter of 16 June about the interception of a quantity of arms and amunition on the Swaziland border. I shall draw this to the Prime Minister's attention as you requested.

C D POWELL

Mr. L. H. Evans

SP