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TELNO 211

OF 301340Z JUN 86

INFO PRIORITY CAPE TOWN, PRETORIA, HARARE, WASHINGTON

ZAMBIA: MR HEALEY'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA

SUMMARY

KAUNDA IS INCREASINGLY COMMITTED AND EMOTIONAL ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA.

DETAIL

2. HE ACCOMPANIED MR HEALEY WHEN HE CALLED ON PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON SATURDAY EVENING, 28 JUNE. KAUNDA WAS STILL SMARTING FROM THE BLOW OF THE HAGUE STATEMENT. HE SPOKE WITH MEDIA PRESENT FOR 16 MINUTES, BUT THERE WAS SCANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THAT PUBLIC MESSAGE AND THE SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS.
3. KAUNDA SAID RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES WERE VERY WARM BUT THERE WERE EXTREMELY SERIOUS PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. HE GAVE HIS USUAL HISTORICAL SURVEY, WITH MUCH GREATER INTENSITY OF FEELING THAN HE HAVE HITHERTO HEARD, AT ONE STAGE SAYING IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE THAT INVESTMENTS AND TRADE ALONE COULD LEAD HMG (AND OTHERS) TO THIS FALSE ANALYSIS. "HE PRAY HE AM WRONG IF HE WONDER IF RACIAL CONSIDERATIONS" (NOTE: WE WERE AFTERWARDS ASSURED THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN HE WAS ACCUSING THE PRIME MINISTER OF RACISM). THE EEC'S THREE MONTHS DELAY WAS A TRICK. HE REPEATED HIS DOUBTS ABOUT STAYING IN THE COMMONWEALTH.
4. MR HEALEY, HAVING AGREED WITH KAUNDA'S AND THE EPG'S ANALYSIS OF SOUTH AFRICA, SAID HE FOUND THE PRIME MINISTER INSENSITIVE BUT SHE WAS NOT A RACIST. POLICIES COULD CHANGE, AND GOVERNMENTS COULD CHANGE, AND ANY THOUGHT OF LEAVING THE COMMONWEALTH WOULD BE A GRAVE MISTAKE.
5. IN PRIVATE DISCUSSION KAUNDA SPOKE (AGAIN WITH GREAT EMOTION) OF HIS DEVOTION TO THE COMMONWEALTH AND OF HIS RESPECT FOR HM THE QUEEN. HE HAD BEEN MUCH ANGERED BY THE TIMES' ACCUSATION THAT HE HAD SOUGHT TO INVOLVE HM THE QUEEN. "ACCUSED, TRIED, AND FOUND GUILTY WITH NO EVIDENCE". ON THE COMMONWEALTH HE SAID HE HAD TAKEN A LINE BUT HAD TAKEN NO STEPS. BUT IF NOTHING WAS DONE HE WOULD FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO SIT AT THE SAME TABLE AS THE PRIME MINISTER.
6. COMMENT: KAUNDA FEELS PASSIONATELY ON THIS ISSUE AND HE IS ALSO CONSCIOUS OF HIS OWN LACK OF REAL ECONOMIC OR MILITARY MUSCLE. THUS HE CAN ONLY REACT IN POLITICAL TERMS. I AM NOT CLEAR WHAT "GOING IT ALONE" MEANS, AND THE REMARK ALSO PUZZLED

file
Before he
received
your
message
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/KAUNDA'S

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KAUNDA'S ADVISERS. I HAD BEEN HOPING THAT THE PASSING OF TIME, AND SUCCESSIVE VISITORS COUNSELLING CAUTION, MIGHT HAVE ENABLED ME TO REPORT THAT MY MOST RECENT ASSESSMENT OF KAUNDA AND THE COMMONWEALTH (MY TELNO 209) ERRED ON THE SIDE OF PESSIMISM. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL STATEMENT OF 27 JUNE KILLED ANY SLIM CHANCE OF THAT, AND I MUST NOW RECORD THAT WHILE MY TELNO 209 MAY HAVE BEEN RIGHT AT THE TIME, I NOW JUDGE THAT IT ERRS ON THE SIDE OF OPTIMISM. MR HEALEY ARGUED THE COMMONWEALTH CASE WELL BUT AT BEST HE HELD THE LINE. KAUNDA IS IN A DANGEROUS MOOD. HE IS NOT DANGEROUS IN THE VICIOUS OR VENGEFUL SENSE, BUT RATHER BECAUSE HE IS IN MY OPINION SO INVOLVED, AND POSSIBLY SUFFICIENTLY EXHAUSTED, TO BE CAPABLE OF IRRATIONALITY BORN OF DESPAIR. I THEREFORE REITERATE THE NEED FOR YOU TO SEE KAUNDA ON YOUR WAY BACK FROM SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH I HOPE WILL BE BEFORE THE FLS MEET (PLANNED FOR MID JULY) TO CONCERT TACTICS.

7. SEE MIFT FOR ACCOUNT OF REMAINDER OF VISIT.

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