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FM OTTAWA

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 419

OF 032025Z JULY 86

INFO ROUTINE CAPE TOWN, PRETORIA, HARARE, GABORONE, DAR ES SALAAM
INFO ROUTINE LAGOS, NASSAU, LUSAKA, NEW DELHI, CANBERRA, TOKYO

YOUR TELNO 197 AND 198: SOUTH AFRICA: PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

1. THE MESSAGE WAS TRANSMITTED TO MR MULRONEY ON 29 JUNE. HE COULD NOT SPEAK PERSONALLY TO HIM AS HE WAS IN THE THROWS OF A MAJOR CABINET RESHUFFLE OVER THE WEEKEND AND ON 30 JUNE. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY THE CANADA DAY HOLIDAY ON 1 JULY AND HIS DEPARTURE FOR A CABINET MEETING IN THE WEST TODAY. SECRETARY OF STATE, JOE CLARK, HAS BEEN OUT OF OTTAWA.
2. HE WENT OVER THE GROUND AGAIN TODAY WITH THE HEAD OF THE DEA TASK FORCE ON SOUTH AFRICA (BERGBUSCH). WE HAD PREVIOUSLY PASSED TO THE DEA THE TEXT OF THE EC STATEMENT ON SOUTH AFRICA (HAGUE TELNO 424) AND CONVEYED THE POINTS MADE IN YOUR TELNO 150 TO ACCRA. BERGBUSCH HAD SEEN THE TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO MR MULRONEY AND HAS PROVIDED US WITH A COPY OF MR MULRONEY'S LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF JUNE 27.
3. BERGBUSCH WAS NOT EXPECTING MR MULRONEY TO REPLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE BEFORE THEY MET ON JULY 13. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NO REACTION FROM LONDON TO MR MULRONEY'S MESSAGE, BUT DOUBTED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE A RESPONSE BEFORE NEXT WEEK'S MEETING.
4. ON YOUR MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA, BERGBUSCH INDICATED THAT THERE WAS SOME SCEPTICISM AS TO WHETHER A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO BRING THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT INTO DIALOGUE WOULD BE ANY MORE FRUITFUL THAN THAT OF THE EPG. WHAT WAS NOW REQUIRED IN CANADIAN EYES WAS A CLEAR AND FIRM SIGNAL TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE PATIENCE OF THE WEST, AND IN PARTICULAR OF SOUTH AFRICA'S MAJOR TRADE PARTNER, WAS EXHAUSTED. INCREASED ECONOMIC PRESSURE WAS THE ONLY WAY TO GET THAT MESSAGE ACROSS. BERGBUSCH REFERRED FREQUENTLY TO THE NEED FOR SUCH "SIGNALS". HE ARGUED THAT, SO FAR, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WERE UNCONVINCED OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE WEST TO SECURE EARLY POLITICAL CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA.
5. HE EXPLAINED THAT NO ONE QUESTIONED THE DIFFICULTY OF YOUR MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA OR OVER-ESTIMATED THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS. NEVERTHELESS, DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION REMAINED THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO INCREASED VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED. NO OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL PROGRESS SHOULD BE LOST. YOUR MISSION HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE 12 MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND MERITED THE SUPPORT OF CANADA AND OTHERS. HE HOPED THAT WE /COULD

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COULD COUNT ON THAT SUPPORT, AND DRAW ATTENTION TO THE PASSAGE IN MR MULRONEY'S MESSAGE IN WHICH HE WISHED US WELL IN ANY ATTEMPT AT GETTING TALKS STARTED BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND BLACK LEADERS.

6. ON POSSIBLE FURTHER ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, BERGBUSCH REVEALED THAT THE CANADIANS HAD BEEN EXAMINING SOUTH AFRICAN EXPORTS OF SUGAR, AND WINES AND SPIRITS. CANADA WAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPORTER, WITH THE UK, OF BOTH ITEMS. ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF SUPPLY WERE AVAILABLE SEMI COLON SOUTH AFRICA WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN FINDING ALTERNATIVE MARKETS. THIS MIGHT BE THE KIND OF MEASURE THAT THE COMMONWEALTH COULD CONSIDER IN ADDITION TO THE MEASURES IN PARAGRAPH 7 OF THE NASSAU ACCORD.

7. BERGBUSCH CONFIRMED THAT MR CLARK STILL HOPED TO AVOID A MOVE TO COMPREHENSIVE MANDATORY SANCTIONS WHICH WOULD NOT BE WATER-TIGHT, AND WOULD NOT BRING ABOUT EARLY DIALOGUE IN SOUTH AFRICA. BUT IF THE PRESSURE FOR SUCH MEASURES WERE TO BE RESISTED WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH AND MORE WIDELY, FURTHER COMMONWEALTH ACTION WAS ESSENTIAL.

8. LOOKING TO THE AUGUST MEETING IN LONDON, AND ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT YOUR MISSION HAD NOT BY THEN PRODUCED RESULTS, BERGBUSCH ASSUMED THAT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD CONCLUDE THAT PADEQUATE PROGRESS HAD NOT BEEN MADE TOWARDS THE OBJECTIVES SET IN NASSAU. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, FURTHER MEASURES WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. HE JUDGED THAT HIS MINISTERS WOULD WANT TO AGREE IN LONDON UPON SPECIFIC MEASURES THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED THERE WOULD BE PREPARED TO IMPLEMENT AND TO RECOMMEND TO THE REST OF THE COMMONWEALTH. HE ENQUIRED HOW THE COMMONWEALTH TIMETABLE COULD BE FITTED IN WITH THE EC PROGRAMME WHICH PROVIDED FOR CONSULTATIONS CONTINUING UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER. HE POINTED OUT THAT ANY MEASURES IMPLEMENTED BY COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE VERY EFFECTIVE UNLESS THEY WERE ENDORSED BY THE OTHER MAJOR INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES WHO THE EC WOULD BE CONSULTING.

9. SOUTH AFRICA MAY WELL FEATURE DURING THE 3-DAY CABINET MEETING BEING HELD THIS WEEK IN WESTERN CANADA. HE WOULD EXPECT MINISTERS TO CONFIRM THE BROAD POLICY ALREADY ADOPTED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, NAMELY A CONTINUED TIGHTENING OF THE ECONOMIC SCREWS UPON SOUTH AFRICA.

DAY

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STANDARD (PALACE)
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MR REEVE
CABINET OFFICE

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