

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO. TD7A186

SUBJECT
CC MASTER
U.S.



Prime Minister
A message from the
President of Tanzania: far
more helpful than you
would have got from
Nigeria. CAP 077. (2)

The Rt. Honourable Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister.

"I thank you most sincerely for your message of 29 June 1986 in which you let me know of the nature and spirit of the discussions as well as the decisions of the recent European Community Summit on the problem of South Africa. I appreciated in particular the sincerity and conviction with which you participated in the Summit and lent support to its programme of action on this question during the next three months.

Let me assure you that I have never been in doubt about the sincerity of your position on this matter. Nor have I doubted your determination to do everything possible to avert the looming catastrophe, with which apartheid is certain to visit South Africa unless that thoroughly despicable system is dismantled. I also understand the preference we all share for a negotiated process between the South African regime and the authentic leaders of the African majority.

Pressure will clearly have to be brought to bear on the South African Government to accept this course of action rather than that of continued confrontation and unacceptable repression. As a form of pressure, I welcome the consultations that will be undertaken by the twelve with other industrialised countries concerning further measures of pressure on the South African Government, covering in particular a ban on new investment and on the import of coal, iron, steel and gold coins from South Africa. To be effective the South African Government must not perceive them as mere motions, but rather as earnest evidence of firm intent to resort to measures of an effective kind as the 'COMGEP' has urged. Without such evidence, the South African authorities are certain to interpret them as simply placatory of outraged international opinion, and no more.

Which brings me round to what I see as the problem of Sir Geoffrey's visit in relation to the work and report of the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons.

As I see it, the merits of the work of the 'COMGEP' have turned out to be four fold. First is the wholesomeness of their operating principles, as outlined in their report. Second is the fact that they were able to consult widely



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within South Africa and outside it and received sufficient and professional back-up from the Commonwealth Secretariat. Third was their unanimous finding regarding the attitude of the South African Government to and readiness for fundamental change in the apartheid system. And fourthly was their unanimous and unequivocal recommendation regarding the way forward: namely the imposition of effective measures against South Africa - which do not rule out economic sanctions.

The work of the 'COMGEP' has met with universal approbation. Their report and its recommendations have generated a pressure and impetus of their own. Nor should anything be done which would give the impression, however, unintended, that it was even partly wanting in thoroughness, clarity and credibility. The 'COMGEP' work and report have assumed a central role in the efforts of the Commonwealth and the International Community as a whole to make its collective will felt on the South African regime. That role should not be eroded.

It is in this context that I am frankly concerned by the mission being undertaken by Sir Geoffrey Howe. I recognise that because of the close economic links between the United Kingdom and South Africa and also between the European Community and South Africa, Sir Geoffrey in his capacity as both British Foreign Secretary and President of the European Council of Ministers may be able to bring fresh influence to bear on the South African Government. That would obviously be to the good.

However, given the instant and contemptuous dismissal which the South African Government gave to the European Community Summit Appeal, there is the very real danger that Sir Geoffrey's mission will only muddy the waters which the 'COMGEP' have so painstakingly filtered. I believe this is the more likely outturn. That would be unfortunate and would have the inexorable effect of either disuniting the International Community in its aspiration to embark on effective measures, or of opening a debate between the 'COMGEP' and Sir Geoffrey Howe's mission - to further obfuscation of the unmitigated terror with which the South African Government continue their evil policies.

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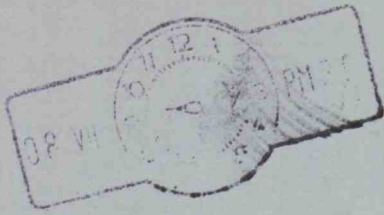
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A great deal will depend on how Sir Geoffrey goes about his task. We in Tanzania shall follow it very closely, and I will want to take advantage of your offer to keep me informed of his progress. Although I see his task as almost a "Mission Impossible", I wish him well.

This message brings with it my best wishes for your continued good health."

Ali Hassan Mwinyi,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.

London,
7th July, 1986.





JR
cfc

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

8 July 1986

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the President of Tanzania, replying to her recent message about the outcome of the European Council's discussion of South Africa. As you will see, while expressing some misgivings about the Foreign Secretary's mission, the President ends up by wishing the Foreign Secretary well. He also asks to be kept closely informed of progress. I do not see any need for a further immediate reply.

(CHARLES POWELL)

A.C. Galsworthy, Esq., CMG,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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HIGH COMMISSION OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

43, HERTFORD STREET
LONDON, W1Y 8DB

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

TZLC/P.40/66

8th July, 1986.

Mr. Nigel Wicks,
Principal Private Secretary to Prime Minister,
Prime Minister's Office,
10, Downing Street,
London, SW1.

N. Powell.

Dear Mr. Wicks.

I would be most grateful if you could deliver the attached message from H.E. President Ali Hassan Mwinyi to the Rt. Honourable Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,
A.V. Magere

A.V. Magere,
Ag. High Commissioner.

Encl.



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