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FM THE WHITE HOUSE
TO CABINET OFFICE LONDON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS CONTAINS CODEWORD
EYES ONLY WHO4007

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING EYES ONLY MESSAGE TO CHARLES POWELL
FROM ADMIRAL POINDEXTER.

14 JULY 1986

DEAR CHARLES:

I AM WRITING ABOUT A DELICATE MATTER. AS YOU KNOW, IN SOME
INSTANCES, WE INFORM CHARLIE PRICE ABOUT CORRESPONDENCE OVER THE
CABINET LINE. I UNDERSTAND YOU DO THE SAME WITH OLIVER WRIGHT.

HOWEVER, IN A CASE LIKE THE RECENT EXCHANGE ON SOUTH AFRICA IN
WHICH YOU SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT KNOWLEDGE OF IT BE RESTRICTED
AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE AND THAT IT NOT BE SEEN OUTSIDE THE WHITE
HOUSE, WE FRANKLY DID NOT PLAN ON SENDING CHARLIE COPIES OF THE
EXCHANGE. CHARLIE, HOWEVER, GOT WIND OF IT -- WE BELIEVE IN
LONDON -- SO HE NOW HAS COPIES.

MY COMMENTS IN NO WAY REFLECT ON CHARLIE PRICE. BUT PLEASE BE
ASSURED THAT WHEN YOU SPECIFICALLY ASK US TO KEEP PRIVACY
CHANNEL EXCHANGES CLOSE HOLD AND THAT THEY NOT BE SEEN OUTSIDE
THE WHITE HOUSE, WE WILL DO SO. WE ARE CONFIDENT YOU WILL ACCORD
THEM THE SAME TREATMENT, WHEN WE MAKE SUCH A REQUEST.

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH.

WARM REGARDS,

JOHN

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FM CABINET OFFICE LONDON
TO THE WHITE HOUSE
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S E C R E T

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING +EYES ONLY+ MESSAGE TO
ADMIRAL POINDEXTER FROM CHARLES POWELL

DEAR JOHN,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR NOTE OF TODAY'S DATE ABOUT THE
CORRESPONDENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA. I THINK I CAN EXPLAIN WHAT
HAPPENED. WE DID NOT SHOW THE EXCHANGE TO OUR FOREIGN OFFICE
OR INDEED TO ANYONE ELSE. HOWEVER, WHEN YOUR TWO COLLEAGUES
FROM THE NSC STAFF CAME TO TALK TO ME ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA, THERE
WAS INEVITABLY SOME REFERENCE TO THE MESSAGE. THEY HAD BROUGHT
WITH THEM A MEMBER OF YOUR EMBASSY STAFF WHO NO DOUBT REPORTED
BACK. I HAD NOT REALISED IN ADVANCE THAT HE WAS COMING, AND IT
SEEMED RUDE TO EXCLUDE HIM. I WAS MYSELF RATHER SURPRISED WHEN
CHARLIE PRICE REFERRED TO THE EXCHANGE THE OTHER DAY. BUT I
ASSUME THAT THIS IS HOW HE GOT TO HEAR OF IT. I CAN ASSURE YOU
THAT WE ALWAYS GO TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO KEEP EXCHANGES
BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT EXTREMELY CONFIDENTIAL.

THANK YOU FOR DRAWING IT TO MY ATTENTION.

BEST WISHES,
CHARLES

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