

GRS 500

→ Mr. Powell (

UNCLASSIFIED
FM EAST BERLIN

TO DESKBY 220830Z FCO
TELNO 142

OF 220800Z JULY 86

INFO IMMEDIATE LUSAKA, PRETORIA, UKREP BRUSSELS, BONN, THE HAGUE
INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS, WASHINGTON

OUR TELNO 001 TO UKREP BRUSSELS; CONTACT WITH ANC.
FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF OLIVER TAMBO'S REPLY TO SECRETARY OF STATE
WHICH WAS RECEIVED 30 TELEX TODAY.
KINDLY RELAY THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE BY MR O R TAMBO TO THE LETTER
BY SIR GEOFFREY HOWE

H.E. SIR GEOFFREY HOWE,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, LONDON.

SIR GEOFFREY,

I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KIND LETTER OF 18 JULY 1986
WHICH HAS NOW REACHED ME, AND GREATLY APPRECIATE THE TROUBLE YOU
HAVE TAKEN TO COMMUNICATE TO US YOUR VIEWS ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN
SITUATION.

WITH REGARD TO THE PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH OF THE LETTER, IT
WILL REGRETTABLY NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO TRAVEL TO BRUSSELS
BEFORE THE 5TH OR 6TH OF AUGUST.

I HAVE NOTED WITH GREAT INTEREST THE OBSERVATIONS YOU MAKE IN
THE REST OF YOUR LETTER, TO WHICH I SHALL BE REPLYING MORE FULLY.
FOR THE MOMENT, I WISH TO RECALL THAT TWO WEEKS AGO, THE ANC MADE
IT KNOWN THAT WE WOULD NOT MEET YOU ON YOUR VISIT TO SOUTHERN AFRICA.
THE REASONS GIVEN THEN FOR OUR DECISION REMAIN VALID:

WE WERE CONVINCED THAT THE IDEA OF THE MISSION WAS CONCEIVED
IN LONDON IN THE CONTEXT OF A REJECTION BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT
OF THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE
COMMONWEALTH GROUP OF EMINENT PERSONS (E.P.G.), AND WAS CALCULATED
TO RENDER IRRELEVANT THE NASSAU DECISIONS, THE E.P.G MISSION TO
SOUTH AFRICA AND EVEN THE COMMONWEALTH MINI-SUMMIT CONVENING IN
AUGUST EXPRESSLY TO CONSIDER THE E.P.G. REPORT AS DECIDED BY THE
49 COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT WHO MET IN NASSAU.

WE DID NOT AND DO NOT SEE OUR WAY CLEAR TO PARTICIPATING IN A PROCESS
SO OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO EVADE AND INDEFINATELY POSTPONE DECISIVE
ACTION TO END THE APARTHEID SYSTEM. IN THIS REGARD, THE STATEMENTS
REPEATEDLY MADE BY THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER HAVE, TO SAY THE LEAST,
BEEN WHOLLY UNHELPFUL.

WE ACCEPT THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AND POSSIBLY EVEN THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, HAVE SINCE ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR
THE MISSION. YET, IN OUR VIEW, THIS DOES NOT ALTER ITS FUNDAMENTAL
PURPOSE AND EFFECT.

I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT WE INTEND NO DISRESPECT EITHER TO THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT, TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OR TO YOU PERSONALLY,
SIR GEOFFREY. INDEED, I WOULD BE HONOURED TO MEET YOU, OUTSIDE OF
THE CONTEXT OF YOUR CURRENT MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA, TO DISCUSS THE
BURNING QUESTION OF THE NEED FOR DECISIVE INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO
BRING ABOUT A SPEEDY END TO THE APARTHEID SYSTEM.

We mustn't play
too easy to
get on the
proposed meeting
at X. If
they won't
cooperate with
us over
the mission,
we shouldn't
hurry to
meet them
COP
22/7.
I agree
not

X
/WE

WE HAVE OVER THE YEARS BENEFITTED FROM DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT WITH MOST OF THE MEMBER-STATES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AND WOULD WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CLOSER CONTACT.

I WOULD ASK THAT YOUR MINISTRY MAINTAINS CONTACT WITH MY OFFICE IN LUSAKA WITH A VIEW TO ARRANGING DATES WHICH MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR OUR MEETING.

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PLEASE ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF OUR HIGHEST CONSIDERATION

OLIVER TAMBO,
PRESIDENT,
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.
21 JULY, 1986.

ENDS

FORD

LIMITED

SAFD
OAD'S
PUSD
NEWS D
PLANNING STAFF
PS
PS/MRS CHALKER
PS/AJS
MR DEREK THOMAS
MR E FERGUSSON
MR REEVE
MR HOUSTON



10 DOWNING STREET

23 July 1986

From the Private Secretary

The Prime Minister has seen a copy of Mr. Oliver Tambo's message to the Foreign Secretary conveyed in East Berlin tel. no. 142. She takes the view that, given the ANC's lack of co-operation in refusing to meet the Foreign Secretary during his current mission to South Africa, we should not fall over ourselves to offer a meeting - at least at the level of the Foreign Secretary - in any other context. She would like to be involved in consideration of the timing of any further meetings with the ANC.

(CHARLES POWELL)

R. N. Culshaw, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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