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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY STATE PRESIDENT  
P E BOTHA ON 29 JULY 1986

BEGINS

"DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, REPRESENTING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AS WELL AS THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, VISITED SOUTHERN AFRICA.

*me*

I ALSO RECEIVED MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN AND OTHERS IN CONNECTION WITH OUR DISCUSSIONS.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IS ALWAYS PREPARED TO RECEIVE PROMINENT REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND TO DISCUSS WITH THEM MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN.

WE ARE ALSO WILLING TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR COUNTRY, BECAUSE WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.

IT HAS BEEN STATED BY SIR GEOFFREY THAT THE "SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HOLDS THE KEY TO A SOLUTION" AND THAT "A LEAP OF IMAGINATION" IS NOW NEEDED FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

WE FULLY REALISE THAT WE DO HOLD THE KEY, AND WE ALSO REALISE THAT WITH THAT KEY WE CAN OPEN THE DOOR TO PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE IN MULTI-CULTURAL COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE. BUT THERE ARE ELEMENTS WHICH OBSTRUCT US IN USING THIS KEY.

IN THIS REGARD I POSED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS TO SIR GEOFFREY, RELATING TO KEY ISSUES, NOT ONLY IN CONTEMPORARY SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICS, BUT IN A HOST OF OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL.

IF WE CAN REACH AGREEMENT ON THESE QUESTIONS, AND THEIR ANSWERS, I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE THE KEY TO THE SOLUTION, AND THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO JOINTLY HELP IN SOLVING THESE PROBLEMS WORLDWIDE THROUGH A COMBINED LEAP OF IMAGINATION.

YET, INSTEAD OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND CO-OPERATION WE FIND THAT WESTERN DEMOCRACIES AND TOTALITARIAN STATES ALIKE ARE NEITHER PREPARED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SINCERITY OF OUR EFFORTS NOR TO GRANT US THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS.

WE ARE A DEVELOPING COUNTRY THAT HAS ACHIEVED MUCH TO BE PROUD OF AND WHEN SOUND ADVICE IS GIVEN TO US IN A SPIRIT OF GOODWILL, WE WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS AND TEST IT.

*/WE*

WE PREFER TO HAVE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER CIVILISED STATES, BUT WE CANNOT ALLOW UNCALLED FOR DIRECT INTERFERENCE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WHICH COULD ONLY LEAD TO CONFUSION AND DETERIORATION OF RELATIONSHIPS, BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OUR COUNTRY.

DURING THE DISCUSSIONS WITH SIR GEOFFREY I AVAILED MYSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE HIM WITH INFORMATION ON THE VAST AND COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF REFORM CARRIED OUT IN SOUTH AFRICA. I ALSO EXPLAINED TO HIM TO WHAT EXTENT THE BLS COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR, AS WELL AS THEIR NEIGHBOURING STATES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE DEPENDENT ON SOUTH AFRICA.

I MENTIONED THE FACT THAT MORE THAN A MILLION FOREIGN WORKERS FIND REFUGE IN SOUTH AFRICA, BECAUSE THERE IS NO HOPE FOR THEM IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES.

FURTHERMORE, I EXPLAINED TO HIM TO WHAT EXTENT THESE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES ARE DEPENDENT ON THE CONTINUANCE OF OUR CUSTOMS UNION AND THAT WITHOUT IT, THEIR ECONOMIC POSITION WILL BECOME HOPELESS.

IN OUR DISCUSSIONS I ALSO REFERRED TO THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REFORM PROGRAMMES WHICH WE CARRIED OUT DURING THE PAST NUMBER OF YEARS IN THE FIELDS OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, SPORT, LABOUR, INFLUX CONTROL, PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR BLACKS, EDUCATION AND BUSINESS.

I SPECIFICALLY DREW HIS ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT AS A RESULT OF SOUND HEALTH POLICIES, THE LIFE EXPECTANCY AND INFANT MORTALITY RATE IN SOUTH AFRICA WAS BETTER THAN IN MOST OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

I ALSO APPEALED TO HIM THAT THE WORLD AT LARGE SHOULD TAKE A GREATER INTEREST IN THE REAL REDEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN STATES, BECAUSE WE PREFER TO HAVE PROPERAUS NEIGHBOURS.

BUT DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS IT WAS QUITE CLEAR TO ME THAT SIR GEOFFREY, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TWELVE NATIONS WAS NOT INTERESTED IN THESE POSITIVE POLICY MATTERS. HE CAME TO SOUTH AFRICA MAINLY TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON US TO UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASE MR MANDELA AND TO UNBAN THE ANC.

I CONSQUENTLY TOLD HIM CANLIDLY THAT I WOULD BE READY TO LET MR MANDELA BE RELEASED THE MOMENT HE IS PREPARED TO ABANDON VIOLENCE THEREBY MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE PROPER DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM IN CIRCUMSTANCES OF PEACE.

I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT AS FAR AS THE ANC IS CONCERNED, THERE CAN BE NO TALKS WITH THEM AFCA LONG AS THEY ARE UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL, AND THAT THE UNBANNING OF THE ANC CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE IF THEY ABANDON VIOLENCE AND TAKE PART IN PEACEFUL PROCESSES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

I DREW HIS ATTENTION TO THE CRUEL MURDERS PERPETRATED AGAINST INNOCENT PEOPLE AND THE INTIMIDATION OF BLACK PEOPLE BY BLACKS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ANC AND THEIR COHORTS.

I IMPRESSED ON SIR GEOFFREY THE NECESSITY THAT SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD BE LEFT IN PEACE SEMICLN THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH AUTHENTIC AND REPRESENTATIVE LEADERS IN THIS COUNTRY WITH WHOM WE CAN IRON OUT OUR FUTURE DISPENSATION SEMICLN THAT WE ARE MAKING HEADWAY SEMICLN AND THAT THE REACTION TO OUR PROPOSAL ABOUT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL IS SO OVERWHELMING THAT I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT WE WILL MAKE THE NECESSARY PROGRESS.

IN THE PAST WE HAVE TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO DEVELOP SOUTH AFRICA AND TO MAKE IT A SAFE HAVEN FOR MILLIONS OF ITS CITIZENS, AND A BEACON OF HOPE FOR THE TROUBLED NATIONS AROUND US. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO DO SO AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO INVITE REASONABLE PEOPLE AND LEADERS TO CO-OPERATE WITH US, AS MANY OF THEM ARE ALREADY DOING.

IN PURSUANCE OF INTERNAL CO-OPERATION AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF SOUTH AFRICA, WE SHALL CONTINUE WITH DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION WITH PEACELOVING LEADERS OF ALL OUR COMMUNITIES, AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST.

WE ARE RESOLUTELY COMMITTED TO DIALOGUE, AS PART OF OUR EFFORTS TO BROADEN DEMOCRACY IN OUR COUNTRY, AND IT IS OUR ASPIRATION TO CONTINUE WITH DIALOGUE IN OUR SEARCH FOR A COMMON DESTINY FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICA'S PEOPLES.

HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT DIALOGUE SHOULD NOT INEVITABLY HAVE THE END RESULT OF JEOPARDIZING THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES IN OUR MULTI-CULTURAL COUNTRY, BUT THAT IT MUST BE AN INSTRUMENT OF HOPE, PEACE AND FREEDOM FOR ALL.

I TOLD SIR GEOFFREY THAT I LOOKED UPON HIS RECENT SPEECH IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AS NOTHING BUT A THREAT AGAINST OUR COUNTRY.

IN CONNECTION WITH SANCTIONS AND THREATS OF SANCTIONS I INFORMED HIM AS FOLLOWS:

I QUOTE:

"IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IS THREATENING US WITH SANCTIONS (NEXT TWO WORDS UNDERLINED) INTER ALIA BECAUSE SOME OF OUR NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES HAVE URGED THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO DO SO. I WOULD IN TURN URGE YOU TO SUGGEST TO THOSE STATES THAT IT IS INCUMBENT ON THEM TO SET AN EXAMPLE BY THEMSELVES, INITIATING COMPREHENSIVE SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA."

"THEY SHOULD HAVE THE COURAGE OF THEIR CONVICTIONS INSTEAD OF CONTINUING TO ENJOY THE CONSIDERABLE BENEFITS OF CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA, WHILE LEAVING IT TO OTHERS TO PAY THE PRICE OF SANCTIONS."

"THE PROSPERITY AND WELFARE OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION SHOULD BE A MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE WHOLE OF THE FREE WORLD, NOT ONLY TO THE REGION AS SUCH."

"I DERIVE NO SATISFACTION AT ALL FROM THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SANCTIONS WILL HURT OUR NEIGHBOURS IN THE REGION EVEN MORE THAN THEY WILL HURT SOUTH AFRICA."

"I STAND READY THEREFORE TO MEET WITH OTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN LEADERS, AS WELL AS LEADERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF JOINTLY IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS THAT AFFLICT US AND OTHERS IN THE REGION, IN SEEKING SOLUTIONS."

"I WOULD NOT SEE SUCH AN ASSEMBLY AS IN ANY WAY REPLACING OR DETRACTING FROM THE INTERNAL REFORM PROCESS TO WHICH MY GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED AND WHICH WILL CONTINUE UNTIL OUR GOALS ARE REACHED."

"A JOINT MEETING OF THIS NATURE THUS STRIKES ME AS POTENTIALLY MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF PROMOTING HOSTILITY AND ALIENATION."

LET THERE BE NO QUESTION ABOUT IT: I CAN NEVER COMMIT SUICIDE BY ACCEPTING THREATS AND PRESCRIPTIONS FROM OUTSIDE FORCES AND HAND SOUTH AFRICA OVER TO COMMUNIST FORCES IN DISGUISE.

I HOPE THIS HYSTERICAL OUTCRY OF CERTAIN WESTERN COUNTRIES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA WILL SOON PASS, BUT IF SANCTIONS ARE APPLIED WITHOUT TAKING NOTE OF ALL OUR ENDEAVOURS TO BUILD THIS COUNTRY AND TO DEVELOP IT, THEN WE WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO PRESERVE OUR NATIONAL INTEREST.

IN THE PAST, COMPREHENSIVE MILITARY SANCTIONS WERE INSTITUTED AGAINST OUR COUNTRY. WE SUCCEEDED IN OVERCOMING THEM AND TODAY WE ARE EXPORTING SOME OF THE BEST WEAPONRY IN THE WORLD.

OIL SANCTIONS WERE APPLIED AGAINST US. THE STEPS WE TOOK ALSO PUT US IN A POSITION TO OVERCOME THAT PROBLEM.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN SANCTIONS. IF THIS WORLD IS TO BECOME A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN, NATIONS MUST LEARN TO DEAL WITH EACH OTHER IN A MORE JUST, RESPONSIBLE AND CIVILISED WAY. BUT IF WE ARE FORCED UNTIL OUR BACKS ARE AGAINST THE WALL, WE WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO STAND UP IN SELF-RESPECT AND SAY TO THE WORLD: YOU WON'T FORCE SOUTH AFRICANS TO COMMIT NATIONAL SUICIDE.

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/LEAVE

LEAVE SOUTH AFRICA TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND WITH GODS HELP OUR  
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SOUTHERN AFRICA

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SOUTHERN AFRICA

BOTHA DISMISSES HOWE PLEA

PRETORIA, TUESDAY - PRESIDENT P.W. BOTHA SAID TODAY HE HAD REJECTED THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY'S PLEA FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA AND DECLARED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PREFER SANCTIONS TO "NATIONAL SUICIDE."

MR BOTHA, AT THE CONCLUSION OF SIR GEOFFREY HOWE'S ONE-WEEK PEACE MISSION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA, SAID HE TOLD THE FOREIGN SECRETARY THAT MANDELA WOULD REMAIN JAILED AND THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS HE LEADS WOULD STAY BANNED UNTIL THEY RENOUNCED VIOLENCE AND PURGED THE ANC OF COMMUNIST LEADERS.

THE ONLY NEW SOUTH AFRICAN PROPOSAL REFERRED TO BY MR BOTHA WAS HIS OFFER TO MEET WITH LEADERS OF OTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND WESTERN EUROPEAN LEADERS TO DISCUSS "THE PROBLEMS THAT AFFLICT US AND OTHERS IN THE REGION."

HE SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS SOUTH AFRICAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUES IF THE OTHER LEADERS WERE WILLING TO DISCUSS INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF THEIR COUNTRIES.

MR BOTHA SAID HE TOLD SIR GEOFFREY THAT THE WEST, IF INTENT ON PUNISHING SOUTH AFRICA, SHOULD AGREE TO TAKE SIMILAR MEASURES AGAINST ALL COUNTRIES WHERE RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION EXIST.

"I CAN NEVER COMMIT SUICIDE BY ACCEPTING THREATS AND PRESCRIPTIONS FROM OUTSIDE FORCES, AND HAND SOUTH AFRICA OVER TO COMMUNIST FORCES IN DISGUISE," HE SAID.

"I HOPE THIS HYSTERICAL OUTCRY OF CERTAIN WESTERN COUNTRIES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA WILL SOON PASS," HE SAID. "I DON'T BELIEVE IN SANCTIONS ... BUT IF WE ARE FORCED UNTIL OUR BACKS ARE AGAINST THE WALL, WE WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO STAND UP IN SELF-RESPECT AND SAY TO THE WORLD: 'YOU WON'T FORCE SOUTH AFRICANS TO COMMIT NATIONAL SUICIDE.'"

MR BOTHA AGREED WITH SIR GEOFFREY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HOLDS THE KEY TO BEGINNING THE PROCESS TO PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION OF A CHANGE IN APARTHEID. BUT MR BOTHA SAID THERE ARE ENOUGH "AUTHENTIC" BLACK LEADERS TO DEAL WITH.

*ant*

HOME SPEAKS OUT

PRETORIA, TUESDAY - FOREIGN SECRETARY SIR GEOFFREY HOWE SAID TODAY AT THE END OF HIS ONE-WEEK MISSION FOR PEACE THAT DIALOGUE WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE IN SOUTH AFRICA "SO LONG AS BLACK LEADERS LIKE NELSON MANDELA ARE IN PRISON OR EXILE AND ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE ANC BANNED.

"WHAT IS NEEDED IS THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD AGREE TO RELEASE MANDELA AND OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS TO UNBAN THE ANC AND OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES, AND TO ENTER INTO PEACEFUL DIALOGUE - AGAINST A MATCHING COMMITMENT FROM THE ANC TO CALL A HALT TO VIOLENCE AND TO ENTER INTO PEACEFUL DIALOGUE.

"IN SHORT, EACH SIDE NEEDS TO MAKE AN OFFER THAT THE OTHER CANNOT REFUSE," HE SAID.

SIR GEOFFREY, MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE INITIATIVE TO OPEN DIALOGUE REMAINED WITH PRETORIA. "IT MUST BE FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO CARRY THROUGH WITH THAT PROCESS, IN A WAY WHICH CAN ENLIST THE SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT OF THE MAJORITY. THE KEY TO THE FUTURE IS IN THEIR HANDS."

ASKED IF FOLLOWING HIS MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS IN SOUTH AFRICA HE HAD SEEN THE MOVEMENT REQUIRED, PARTICULARLY CONCERNING MANDELA'S RELEASE, SIR GEOFFREY SAID: "THE RESPONSES I'VE RECEIVED HAVE NOT YET ENABLED ME TO PROCLAIM THAT I HAVE MADE THE PROGRESS I WOULD HAVE LIKED."

HE MADE THE TRIP ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, WHICH IS GETTING READY TO CONSIDER ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA TO SPEED THE END OF APARTHEID.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY MET FOR AN HOUR WITH PRESIDENT P.W. BOTHA BEFORE GIVING HIS FINAL NEWS CONFERENCE.