

MCCCXFPG
SJUPRGUKOLE IV

Tim As he refused to
see FCS in Southern

PRIME MINISTER

TAMBO

Africa, I doubt the
wisdom of saying him in
London. That is exactly what he
wants.

AS YOU KNOW IT HAS BEEN ENVISAGED THAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY
WOULD SEE TAMBO BEFORE HIS NEGOTIATING MANDATE RUNS OUT AT THE
END OF SEPTEMBER. YOU AGREED TO THIS PROPOSAL A LITTLE WHILE
AGO BUT WERE CONCERNED TO ENSURE THAT WE WERE NOT SEEN TO BE
RUNNING AFTER HIM.

No FCS
has ever

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY CONSIDERS THAT THE LAPSE OF TIME SINCE
HIS OWN VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA IS SUFFICIENT TO CONSIDER SETTING
UP SUCH A MEETING, AND I GATHER THAT THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY
TO MAKE CONTACTS IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO WITH A VIEW TO A MEETING
IN THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER. THIS WOULD BE BEFORE THE
INFORMAL FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING SET FOR THE WEEKEND OF
6/7 SEPTEMBER.

met
the
head of a

DO YOU AGREE THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE CAN BEGIN
PRELIMINARY CONTACTS TO SET UP A MEETING ON THE TIMESCALE I
HAVE DESCRIBED?

leisurely
organised

TIM FLESHER
14 AUGUST 1986

before - so /

9826'

Presume he is only
saying him as President
of the C.E.C. Council
of Ministers etc.

PM Spoke to
Tim 15/8.

PRIME MINISTER

TAMBO

I have related your comments to the Foreign Office. They say they are very much aware of the need to avoid being seen to run after Tambo and for that reason would prefer the meeting to be in this country. If the meeting was held elsewhere and the Foreign Secretary had to make a special trip, it would look more as if we were paying court to Tambo rather than the other way round. I think there is some force in this argument. It is after all the ANC who refuse to meet the Foreign Secretary in the context of his visit to Southern Africa. If they now see him in this country it will be seen as a climb down by them.

Are you content for the Foreign Office to proceed on the basis of a meeting in this country if one can be arranged without our being seen to run after Tambo?

Timothy Flesher

15 August 1986