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Mr Humphrey
Mr Adams
Mr Murray
+ pc.
A.S. 8



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Mr. Levee, SACD

PS/PS
PS/Mr Riffkind
Mr Ferguson
Mr Johnson

2 August 1985

Dear Colin,

Pidatts
5/8

Prime Minister's meeting with Chief Buthelezi
on 2 August at 1530

The Prime Minister had a brief meeting this afternoon with Chief Buthelezi following her talks with Mrs. Suzman.

The Prime Minister asked Chief Buthelezi's views on the way forward in South Africa. Chief Buthelezi said that he was a realist. He recognised that there was no prospect of toppling the South African Government. It was the most powerful and well-entrenched government in Africa. Measures to isolate South Africa would not help. He had been pleased when the Prime Minister had seen President Botha. He very much appreciated the Prime Minister's attitude on sanctions and her pronouncements on them during her recent visit to Washington. The majority of black people in South Africa were not asking for sanctions and disinvestment. Such measures would only damage the standard of living and the future of blacks. What was required was steady political pressure on the South African Government to end the state of emergency, to release Nelson Mandela and to issue a statement of intent about its plans for dialogue and power sharing with the black community. Chief Buthelezi handed over a memorandum covering these points to the Prime Minister.

Chief Buthelezi also gave a long account of his contacts with the ANC and his relations with President Botha, in the course of which he handed over the enclosed copy of a letter which he had sent the President last November. The only point he mentioned which appeared to me worth recording was that Botha had been close to releasing Nelson Mandela last autumn. Chief Buthelezi made clear that he was not prepared to meet President Botha while the state of emergency lasted. He confirmed his own commitment to non-violence.

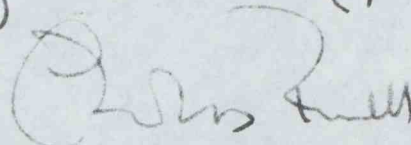
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Chief Buthelezi subsequently repeated most of these points in talking to television and the press outside No.10.

The Prime Minister commented afterwards that while she had found Chief Buthelezi engaging, she wondered whether he was a strong enough character to provide real leadership. !

Yours sincerely,


(Charles Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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