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FM OTTAWA  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELNO 210  
OF 131540Z APRIL 87  
INFO SAVING WASHINGTON

MY TELNO 198: PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISIT TO OTTAWA; SOUTH AFRICA

## SUMMARY

1. REAGAN AND MULRONEY DISCUSSED SOUTH AFRICA. AGREED THAT SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT VENICE SUMMIT, WHICH MIGHT ISSUE A STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT. BOTH US AND CANADA SEE POSSIBLE NEED FOR OUTSIDE MEDIATOR BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND BLACK LEADERS.

## DETAIL

2. THE MAJOR PART OF THE LUNCHTIME MEETING ON 6 APRIL WHICH WAS EARMARKED FOR DISCUSSIONS ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL WAS IN FACT DEVOTED TO SOUTH AFRICA.
3. US AMBASSADOR NILES HAS GIVEN ME THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THE DISCUSSION, DRAWING UPON HIS NOTES TAKEN AT THE TIME.
4. MULRONEY GAVE PRESIDENT REAGAN SOME ACCOUNT OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO AFRICA, AND IN PARTICULAR, HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH MUGABE. MULRONEY CONSIDERED MUGABE TO BE SOMEONE WITH WHOM ONE COULD DISCUSS SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS SENSIBLY. MUGABE TOOK THE VIEW THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES WAS THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD NO ONE TO TALK TO. THIS LED MULRONEY TO SUGGEST TO THE PRESIDENT THAT WE SHOULD PERHAPS THINK OF RECONSTITUTING THE EPG OR SOMETHING LIKE IT, AND EXTENDING THIS GROUP TO INCLUDE THE UNITED STATES, WHICH STILL RETAINED INFLUENCE IN THE AREA.
5. THE PRESIDENT MADE CLEAR HIS FIRM OPPOSITION TO SANCTIONS, WHICH WERE NO ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF SOUTH AFRICA. HE TOLD MULRONEY THAT HE HAD BEEN MUCH IMPRESSED BY HIS CONVERSATION WITH BUTHELEZI (MULRONEY DID NOT SEE BUTHELEZI DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO OTTAWA). REAGAN AGREED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR ALL OF US TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER, AND INDICATED THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BE A SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION AT THE VENICE SUMMIT.
6. SHULTZ POINTED OUT THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTIONS IN MAY WOULD CREATE A 'NEW REALITY'. HE SUGGESTED THAT WORK MIGHT BE INITIATED ON THE OUTLINE OF A STATEMENT ON SOUTH AFRICA THAT COULD ISSUE FROM THE VENICE SUMMIT. SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD EXPRESS 'WHAT WE ARE FOR AND WHAT WE ARE AGAINST'. SHULTZ ALSO MENTIONED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A ROLE FOR BELGIUM IN FURTHERING THE DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA. HE ALSO NOTED THAT BELGIUM CURRENTLY HELD THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

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THIS MIGHT SUGGEST A SPECIFIC ROLE FOR BELGIUM. HE RECOGNISED THAT THERE COULD WELL BE A NEED FOR SOME OUTSIDE MEDIATOR BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE VARIOUS BLACK ELEMENTS. THIS COULD TAKE THE FORM OF A NEW EPG OR SOMETHING SIMILAR.

7. MULRONEY SAID THAT HE WELCOMED SHULTZ'S IDEAS ABOUT OUTSIDE MEDIATION. HE ADDED THAT, IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH AFRICAN LEADERS, HE CONSTANTLY REJECTED ANY CRITICISM THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN OR MRS THATCHER WERE NOT WHOLLY COMMITTED TO THE ENDING OF APARTHEID.

8. WE HAVE HAD A BRIEFING FROM THE DEA WHICH COVERS SIMILAR GROUND, THOUGH NOT IN SUCH DETAIL. ACCORDING TO THE DEA, MULRONEY HIMSELF TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN DISCUSSIONS ON THE NEED FOR OUTSIDE MEDIATION, AND DREW A PARALLEL WITH HMG'S INTERVENTION AND INVOLVEMENT IN EVENTS LEADING TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF ZIMBABWE. ACCORDING TO THE DEA, MULRONEY, WHILE PRAISING THE WORK OF THE EPG, DOUBTED WHETHER IT HAD SUFFICIENT 'CLOUT' TO BRING ABOUT ESSENTIAL CHANGE.

COMMENT

9. NILES' ACCOUNT IS THE FIRST INDICATION I HAVE SEEN THAT THE IDEA OF OUTSIDE MEDIATION IS A US AS WELL AS A CANADIAN IDEA. SHULTZ'S VIEWS, AS RELAYED TO US, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GIVE MULRONEY SOME ENCOURAGEMENT IN FURTHER PROPOUNDING THIS IDEA. I DOUBT WHETHER MULRONEY WOULD ENVISAGE ANY SPECIFIC ROLE FOR CANADA IN THIS REGARD. HE MUST REALISE THAT HIS HARD LINE STANCE ON SANCTIONS WOULD NOT MAKE HIM OR CANADA AN ACCEPTABLE INTERLOCUTOR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

10. I AM SEEING TAYLOR, UNDER-SECRETARY DEA LATER THIS WEEK TO PROBE HIM FURHTER ON CANADIAN INTENTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA AT VENICE.

11. ALTHOUGH NILES IMPOSED NO RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF THE INFORMATION PASSED TO ME, I HOPE WE WILL BE DISCREET IN ANY USE WE MAY MAKE OF IT IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE US ADMINISTRATION.

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