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10/5Contacts with Bophuthatswana and "President" Mangope

1. The "President" of Bophuthatswana will visit Britain from 11-14 May. He will appear before the Foreign Affairs Committee on 11 May.
2. I would, therefore, be grateful if you and other Cabinet colleagues would look again at my minute to you of 22 January (copy enclosed for ease of reference) and remind all Ministers and Parliamentary Private Secretaries of our policy towards Bophuthatswana.
3. I am sending copies of this minute to all members of Cabinet, to Richard Luce, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

8 May 1987



SAFO
 cc As
 PS/PJS
 Mr. Ferguson
 Mr. Reeve
 Mr. Houston
 Legal Advisers
 News Dept.
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LORD PRIVY SEAL

Contacts with Bophuthatswana and "President" Mangope

1. The "President" of Bophuthatswana will be visiting Britain next month and his supporters (who include certain Conservative MPs) hope he will appear before the Foreign Affairs Committee. Mr Mangope is also likely to seek meetings with and issue invitations to social events to members of the Government during his stay here.
2. Bophuthatswana is one of the "homelands" established within South Africa. The homelands formed the cornerstone of the policy of separate development originally conceived by Dr Verwoerd. The ultimate aim was to grant "independence" to all of them. This would have the attraction for the whites of redesignating most of South Africa's blacks as non-citizens and thus notionally redressing the unfavourable racial imbalance of numbers in South Africa's population.
3. So far four of the homelands have accepted "independence". Bophuthatswana was declared "independent" in 1977. It does not meet our criteria for recognition as an independent state and, in common with all other states except South Africa, HMG does not recognise it as independent. We have no official dealings with Bophuthatswana.

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4. No British interest would be served by changing our policy on Bophuthatswana. On the contrary, such a step would not be understood by our Western partners or the world community in general and would be likely to damage British interests, including our commercial interests, in black Africa and the Third World. The South African policy of "bantustanization" has been condemned by the UN Security Council.

5. It would not be consistent with present policy for members of the Government to meet Mr Mangope during his forthcoming visit. I should be grateful if you and other Cabinet colleagues would take an early opportunity to remind all Ministers and Parliamentary Private Secretaries of our policy towards Bophuthatswana and ask them to inform me of any approaches made by Mr Mangope or those acting for him.

6. I am sending copies of this minute to all members of the Cabinet, to Richard Luce, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

22 January 1987

