



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Reply to President Botha

President Botha wrote to you the other Head of Government before the London Summit.

The FCO draft reply attached seems unnecessary to rub his nose in it. It will not help if we ever get to deal with him seriously.

I attach a more gentle version. He does not deserve it. But I think it is better. COP



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 June 1987

*Dear Charles*

South Africa: President Botha's letter of 25 May  
to the Prime Minister

We agreed (Tony Galsworthy's letter of 1 June and your reply of 2 June) that a reply to President Botha's pre-summit letter to the Prime Minister could be left until after Venice.

I now enclose a draft reply to President Botha. As Tony mentioned in his earlier letter, the Foreign Secretary considers that President Botha's main objective in sending a circular letter to the Summit leaders was to place the South African Government's position on record in standard debating terms. There is therefore nothing to be gained by a detailed response. The draft accordingly draws on Sig. Fanfani's closing statement and reiterates the Prime Minister's long standing call for matching commitments by both sides to create a climate for genuine dialogue.

*Yours ever*

*R N Culshaw*

(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

*Rushed*

*Please type  
for Mr. Botha*

DRAFT LETTER TO PRESIDENT BOTHA

*MM AAS*

Thank you for your letter of 25 May about discussion of South Africa at the Venice Summit.

I welcome your intention, expressed in your letter, to continue with economic social and constitutional reform, as well as your plan to become more personally involved in negotiations with black leaders. ~~This was in our minds at Venice.~~

Although there was no detailed discussion of South Africa among Heads of Government, <sup>at Venice</sup> our views were fairly summarised by Signor Fanfani at his closing press conference: ~~You will undoubtedly have seen a text of this. (We agreed on the need for apartheid to be dismantled and for dialogue between representatives of all groups in South African society.)~~

*Notly whole  
1. 2. 3. 4. 5.*

*[insert  
A+S  
attached  
see over]*

I ~~continue to~~ believe that the formula of matching, reciprocal commitments (devised by the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group) continues to offer ~~the best basis for progress.~~ <sup>was forward a good basis for</sup> I hope that you will find a way to break the current impasse: I ~~am~~ <sup>very much</sup> sure that the key steps are those <sup>proposed</sup> ~~so long called for~~ by the international community.

*Jul*

*hope*

In your message after the General Election result you mentioned my opposition to violence as a means of pursuing

*MM AAS*

*much better than suspended!*

political ends. Certainly, I remain convinced that a commitment by all sides to ~~call a halt~~ to violence is a vital component of successful negotiations in South Africa.

If your government shows itself willing to take the necessary steps, I remain ready to do all in my power to assist the process of peaceful dialogue. ??

The Honourable P.W. Botha, DMS, MP.

A / "As regards Africa - a continent with enormous potentialities but facing extremely serious economic, social and political problems - we viewed the situation in South Africa with particular concern. We agreed that a peaceful and lasting solution can only be found to the present crisis if the apartheid regime is dismantled and replaced by a new form of democratic, non-racial government. There is an urgent need, therefore, to begin a genuine dialogue with the representatives of all the components of South African society. At the same time we noted the importance of humanitarian assistance initiatives for the victims of Apartheid and of supporting the efforts by SADCC (Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference) member states to develop and strengthen their own economies." /R.

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

The Honourable P W Botha DMS MP

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your letter of 25 May about discussion of South Africa at the Venice Summit.

CAVEAT .....

*central*

You will now have seen the text of Prime Minister Fanfani's concluding summary on the political issues which we discussed at Venice. This reflected the shared conviction of the seven Heads of State and Government on two key points: that a peaceful and lasting solution to South Africa's problems can only be found if apartheid is dismantled and replaced by a new form of democratic, non-racial government; and that it is urgently necessary to begin a genuine dialogue between the representatives of all components of South African society.

Enclosures flag(s) .....

I have read carefully what you said in your letter. I welcome your intention to continue with economic, social and constitutional reform. I note too that you plan to become more personally involved in negotiations with black leaders. Now that your election is over I hope that you will move decisively towards fundamental /change.

S. AFRICA  
RELATIONS PT 14

change. I have no doubt of the difficulty or the magnitude of the concessions that will be required from both sides. But, I do not think that any other course offers a prospect of stability, peace and prosperity in your country.

<sup>A</sup> I believe that the formula of matching, reciprocal commitments devised by the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group continues to offer the best basis for progress. I hope that you will find a way to break the current impasse: I <sup>am sure</sup> ~~assume~~ that the key steps are those so long called for by the interantional community.

In your message after the General Election result you mentioned my opposition to violence as a means of pursuing political ends. Certainly, I remain convinced that a commitment by all sides to call a halt to violence is a vital component of successful negotiations in South Africa.

If your government shows itself willing to take the necessary steps, I remain ready to do all in my power to assist the process of peaceful dialogue. /B.

