

ADVANCE COPIES

SOUTH AFRICA

PS

PS/MRS CHALKER

PS/PUS

MR MUNRO

MR REEVE

~~MR HOUSTON~~

HD/SAFD

HD/CAFD

HD/UND

HD/NEWS DEPT

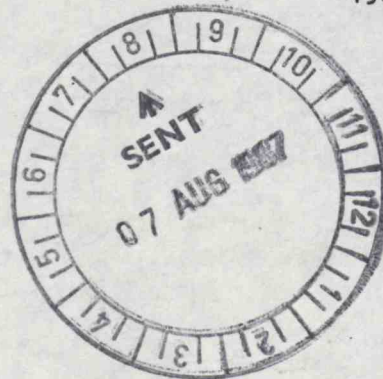
HD/CONSULAR DEPT

HD/SCD

RESIDENT CLERK

MR CLG MALLABY, CABINET OFFICE
10 Downing Street
PS/ S of S MOD

19.12.86



CONFIDENTIAL
FM CAPE TOWN
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELNO 352
OF 071400Z AUGUST 1987

MEETING WITH P W BOTHA

1. AFTER I PRESENTED MY CREDENTIALS THIS MORNING TO MR P W BOTHA, THE STATE PRESIDENT ASKED ME TO STAY FOR A PRIVATE TALK. HE ASKED FOR HIS GREETINGS TO BE CONVEYED TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE FACT THAT I HAD SAID A FEW WORDS IN AFRIKAANS. HE TOOK THIS AS A SYMBOL OF THE FACT THAT WE HAD SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THE AFRIKANER PREDICAMENT. HE SAID THAT HE WAS TRYING TO ACHIEVE CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE RECENT ELECTIONS HAD SHOWN THAT HE WAS SUPPORTED IN THESE EFFORTS BY THE MAJORITY OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING POPULATION. HE BELIEVED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER REALISED THAT SANCTIONS AND EXTERNAL PRESSURE FORCED HIM TO REACT AND MADE THE TASK MORE DIFFICULT. MOST OF THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES WERE ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT ON SOUTH AFRICA AND THEIR FUTURE PROSPERITY DEPENDED ON WHAT HAPPENED HERE. HE KNEW THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN HAD SIMILAR VIEWS, BUT THE ACTION OF THE US CONGRESS HAD BEEN DAMAGING AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AND VERY MUCH RESENTED BY HIM. HE HOPED THAT I WOULD CONVEY THESE POINTS TO YOU AND THE PRIME MINISTER.
2. I SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER NEEDED NO CONVINCING THAT SANCTIONS WERE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. AT MANY INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS SHE HAD DEFENDED THIS POSITION. SHE UNDERSTOOD THE DILEMMA FACED BY THE WHITES HERE, THEIR ANXIETIES ABOUT THE FUTURE, AND CONCERN THAT ALL THAT HAD BEEN BUILT UP HERE SHOULD NOT BE DESTROYED. SHE WAS NO LESS CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL RIGHTS FOR THE BLACK POPULATION. MR BOTHA SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN WARMLY RECEIVED IN THE TOWNSHIPS HE HAD RECENTLY VISITED. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WERE SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY TRYING TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN THE TOWNSHIPS, AND HE WAS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH BLACK LEADERS.

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3. I SAID THAT AT THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER, THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD FACE FURTHER PRESSURE FROM ALL OTHER COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS FOR FURTHER ACTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. WE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT SUCH ACTION COULD POSSIBLY HELP THE SITUATION HERE. WE WANTED THE EMPHASIS TO BE PLACED ON ASSISTANCE TO THE NEIGHBOURING STATES, WHERE WE WERE DOING A GREAT DEAL. THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD UNDERSTAND HIS FEELINGS ABOUT THE RECENT BOMB EXPLOSION HERE: WE SHARED THOSE FEELINGS AS WE SUFFERED FROM TERRORIST OUTRAGES OURSELVES. I HOPED THAT THE STATE PRESIDENT WOULD REALISE, HOWEVER, THAT RAIDS ON THE CAPITALS OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES OF THE KIND WHICH HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN MAY LAST YEAR, WOULD CAUSE GREAT DIFFICULTIES FOR US. IT WAS BETTER THAT THIS SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR, THAN THAT THERE SHOULD BE MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN US.

4. THE STATE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE REGISTERED THE POINT. HE HAD TO DECIDE WHAT WAS NECESSARY IN THE INTERESTS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S SECURITY. THE SWAZI AND LESOTHO GOVERNMENTS WERE CO-OPERATING WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS IN ACTION AGAINST TERRORISTS ON THEIR TERRITORY. IF KAUNDA AND OTHERS COULD BE BROUGHT TO DO SO, THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEMS. HE WANTED PEACE WITH HIS NEIGHBOURS, BUT IT DID DEPEND ON THEIR ACTIONS ALSO.

5. MR BOTHA ADDED THAT HE HAD ONE GRIEVANCE AGAINST US. THIS WAS OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ANC OFFICE IN LONDON. I SAID THAT AS THE PRIME MINISTER HAD MADE CLEAR TO HIM AT CHEQUERS, SO LONG AS ITS ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE LAW, THAT OFFICE WAS ABLE TO OPERATE IN LONDON. WE WOULD NOT PERMIT ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE LAW, BY THE ANC OR OTHERS.

6. I SAID THAT WHATEVER THE PUBLIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US, YOU AND THE PRIME MINISTER ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO MAINTAINING PRIVATE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION. MR BOTHA SAID THAT HE DID AS WELL. I WOULD BE WELCOME TO ASK TO SEE HIM. HE HAD APPRECIATED THIS EXCHANGE.

11 7. MR BOTHA CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE CONTINUED TO HOPE THAT, ONE DAY, THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT VISIT SOUTH AFRICA, SO THAT SHE COULD SEE HOW MUCH HAD CHANGED SINCE HER LAST VISIT HERE.

COMMENT

8. P W BOTHA WAS AT PAINS TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION OF THE UNDERSTANDING THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SHOWN FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S PROBLEMS. IN RESPONSE TO THE POINT ABOUT EXTERNAL RAIDS, HE SWALLOWED HARD BUT RESISTED THE TEMPTATION TO LAUNCH A DIATRIBE AGAINST THE ANC. WHAT HAPPENS OF COURSE WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER THERE ARE FURTHER INCIDENTS OF THE JOHANNESBURG KIND AND THE ADVICE OF THE MILITARY HERE.

9. FCO PLEASE PASS TO NO 10.

RENWICK

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CFPOAN 1305