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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

Acw

24 June 1988

I enclose a copy of a letter which we have had from Miss Joyce Mokhesi asking the Prime Minister to see Mamolise Mokhesi next week, as part of the campaign to bring pressure on the South African Government to exercise clemency towards the Sharpeville Six. Apparently, President Mitterrand is to see her.

(1) You may recall that Andrew Bearpark and I saw Joyce Mokhesi and Julia Ramashamole back in the Spring. I do not myself see any likelihood that the Prime Minister will agree to see Mamolise Mokhesi; and there is little point in a further meeting with me. But I should be grateful for advice and a draft reply which deals with the allegation that we have been instrumental in watering down calls for clemency. Given that there is likely to be quite a press campaign about this next week, it would be helpful to have the draft as soon as possible.

C. D. POWELL

Lyn Parker, Esq.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

S AFRICA Relations pt 16

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at floor Pt 15

Dear Mr Bearpark,

You may remember that Mrs Ramashamole and I saw you last March to explain why Mrs Thatcher should intervene personally to save the lives of the Sharpeville Six. We were very relieved when she did, though as you will know events have taken a further tragic turn for the worst.

My niece, Mamolise Mokhesi, is my brother Francis Mokhesi's daughter. She is ten years old and is arriving in Britain on Saturday for a tour of Western countries. While in Europe she and I shall be seeing President and Mrs Mitterand during our visit to France between June 27th and July 1st. The following week we shall be going to the US to see Democratic and Republican politicians.

Experienced lawyers with first hand knowledge of practising in South Africa, as well as those actually involved with the case of the Sharpeville Six, say privately that the outcome of the legal processes will be a political one.

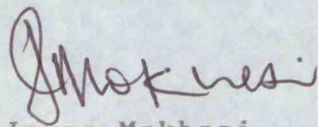
You may recall my own belief - and I have to tell you that it is shared by all Western leaders to whom I have spoken - that Mrs Thatcher is the single international statesman to whom President Botha is most likely to listen. I am very keen for her to identify herself personally with calls for clemency.

I have read in the papers that Britain while joining calls for clemency has been instrumental in watering them down. While the Government has its own reasons for such actions, you will appreciate that Pretoria is likely to interpret them as demonstrating that Britain is only half hearted in its support for clemency.

I feel sure that Mrs Thatcher will want to see Francis's daughter Mamolise. This would visibly demonstrate to Pretoria that Mrs Thatcher does care and is personally committed to ensuring that none of the Six are hanged. At the same time Britain could not be accused of intervening in the judicial process of another country.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to contact my fiance, Peter Parker, to arrange a time for us to see Mrs Thatcher.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joyce Mokhesi', with a stylized, cursive script.

Joyce Mokhesi

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