



PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No: T 223/85

(2)

South African Embassy  
Trafalgar Square  
LONDON WC2N 5DP

Prime Minister  
We will prepare a  
reply.  
CDP  
26/11

26 November 1985

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1A

*ms*

Dear Prime Minister

By now you will know that the composition of the Commonwealth Group was conveyed to my Government on 25 November 1985.

I requested my Minister of Foreign Affairs yesterday to forward to you the text of the Statement to be issued by my Government today embodying my Government's reactions to the Commonwealth communication.

In formulating our response, your representations and the strong stand you took against sanctions and against violence perpetrated by the ANC weigh heavily with us as you will no doubt be able to conclude from the wording of the Statement.

Yours sincerely

100%  
Flag

P W Botha  
STATE PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT  
ON 26 NOVEMBER 1985

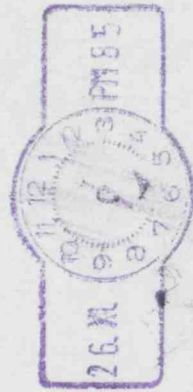
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The Canadian Ambassador accompanied by representatives of the Australian and British Embassies in Pretoria, on the instruction of their Governments, yesterday handed to the South African Government the composition of the proposed Commonwealth Group on South Africa as well as the text of the Commonwealth Accord.

It is obvious that the great majority of Commonwealth members is ill-informed or not informed at all of the South African Government's reform programme and of the current situation in South Africa and southern Africa. Indeed, the Commonwealth Accord of 20 October 1985 takes scant account of the realities of South and southern Africa. The Republic of South Africa is the mainstay of economic progress and stability in southern Africa and therefore, all the leaders of southern Africa ought to resolve their differences peacefully through discussion and not to resort to violence.

The South African Government has nothing to hide. Should the Commonwealth Group be genuinely interested in acquainting themselves with the prevailing circumstances in this country and the southern African region, the progress already made in South Africa as well as the future reform programme envisaged, the South African Government is prepared to consider ways and means of making that possible without conceding the right of intervention in the country's national affairs.

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100%  
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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

26 November 1985

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from President Botha about the South African Government's attitude towards the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons.

I am sure that the Prime Minister would want to reply to express her appreciation of this relatively open response. I should be grateful for an early draft.

CHARLES POWELL

Colin Budd Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

lv



*South African Embassy*  
Trafalgar Square  
LONDON WC2N 5DP

B8/6/1

26 November 1985

Mr Charles Powell  
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister  
No 10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1A

Dear Mr Powell

It would be much appreciated if you could kindly hand the enclosed letter from the South African State President to the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Your assistance is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Dr Denis Worrall  
AMBASSADOR



W.C.  
CDD  
11/12

Union Buildings  
Pretoria

26 November 1985

Dear Prime Minister

By now you will know that the composition of the Commonwealth Group was conveyed to my Government on 25 November 1985. I requested my Minister of Foreign Affairs yesterday to forward to you the text of the statement to be issued by my Government today embodying my Government's reaction to the Commonwealth communication.

In formulating our response, your representations and the strong stand you took against sanctions as well as against violence perpetrated by the ANC weighed heavily with us as you will no doubt be able to conclude from the wording of the statement.

Yours sincerely

P W BOTHA  
STATE PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Rt Honourable Margaret Thatcher  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

