

CONFIDENTIAL

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 FM WASHINGTON
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELNO 916
 OF 112320Z APRIL 86
 INFO ROUTINE CAPE TOWN

WASHINGTON TELNO 852: US/ SOUTH AFRICA

1. CROCKER TOLD MINISTER ON THE AFTERNOON OF 11 APRIL THAT P W BOTHA HAD NOW REPLIED IN REMARKABLY POSITIVE TERMS TO THE MESSAGES FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT.
2. CROCKER SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE US AND UK AMBASSADORS IN CAPE TOWN HAD ALREADY COMPARED NOTES ABOUT THESE REPLIES. HE EMPHASISED THE DESIRABILITY OF BOTH SIDES NOW WORKING VERY CLOSELY TOGETHER, AND HOPED WE WOULD BE ABLE TO SHARE OUR REACTION TO PW BOTHA'S RESPONSE AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. ALTHOUGH P W BOTHA'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN DID NOT SEEM TO BE SEEKING ANY SPECIFIC US ACTION, AN EARLY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WOULD AT LEAST BE REQUIRED^{AND} IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR THIS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE LINE THE PRIME MINISTER TOOK. (WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED COPIES OF CAPE TOWN TELNOS 210 AND 211: GRATEFUL FOR EARLY LINE TO TAKE WITH CROCKER.)
3. CROCKER SAID THAT PIK BOTHA WAS EVIDENTLY DELIGHTED BY THE PROGRESS HE HAD ACHIEVED. THE AMERICANS NOW WONDERED WHETHER THE QUOTE PEACE PARTY UNQUOTE MIGHT IN FACT BE RATHER LARGER, AND MORE INFLUENTIAL, THAN THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY SUPPOSED.
4. CROCKER CONFIRMED THAT LORD BARBER'S 10 APRIL MEETING WITH SHULTZ HAD BEEN USEFUL. SHULTZ HAD MADE CLEAR THE US WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT THE COMGEP EXERCISE. BUT THE AMERICANS HAD BEEN DISTURBED BY LORD BARBER'S APPARENT CONCERN ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH COMGEP WOULD BE WILLING TO PRESS THE ANC.
5. CROCKER REVEALED IN CONFIDENCE THAT HE WAS INCLINED TO SHARE OUR DOUBTS (AND THOSE OF LORD BARBER) ABOUT THE WISDOM OF ADDRESSING SOUTH AFRICA AT THE SUMMIT. BUT SHULTZ WAS ATTRACTED TO THE IDEA: WE MIGHT THEREFORE NOT HAVE HEARD THE LAST OF IT.
6. FRASER AND OBASANJO WILL BE CALLING ON CROCKER ON 14 APRIL AND SHULTZ ON 16 APRIL.

WRIGHT

SOUTH AFRICA

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S AF D

C AF D

UND

ECD(E)^{NAD}

NEWS D

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PLANNING STAFF

PS

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MR DEREK THOMAS

MR FERGUSSON

MR REEVE

CABINET OFFICE

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