

GRS370  
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FM LAGOS

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 577

OF 021345Z JULY 86

INFO PRIORITY HARARE, LUSAKA, PRETORIA, DAR ES SALAAM, NAIROBI  
SOUTH AFRICA

1. I CALLED THIS MORNING ON GENERAL OBASANJO AT HIS FARM NEAR LAGOS. ON THE EPG HE HAD LITTLE TO ADD TO HIS BRIEFINGS IN DAR ES SALAAM (DAR ES SALAAM TELNO 165) AND NAIROBI (NAIROBI TELNO 279). HE REITERATED HIS ADMIRATION FOR NELSON MANDELA AND PAID TRIBUTE ONCE MORE TO THE ROLE PLAYED BY LORD BARBER. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EPG MIGHT MEET AGAIN IN LONDON JUST PRIOR TO THE REVIEW MEETING. ALTHOUGH A LITTLE UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE VALUE OF THIS, HE SAW NO OBJECTION.

2. I HANDED OBASANJO A COPY OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL STATEMENT ON SOUTH AFRICA, AND EXPLAINED WHAT THE EC WERE TRYING TO DO. ON THE TEXT, HE COMMENTED THAT THE USE OF THE TERM 'AUTHENTIC LEADERS' WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, WHO HAD STRONGLY CHALLENGED THE EPG ABOUT THE IDENTITIES OF THESE 'LEADERS'. ON THE SUBSTANCE, HE WAS NOT IN THE LEAST DISMISSIVE OF YOUR FOURTHCOMING VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA AND SAID HE HOPED YOU WOULD SUCCEED WHERE THE EPG HAD FAILED. HE IMAGINED THAT 'THE STING' WOULD BE TAKEN OUT OF THE REVIEW MEETING IF YOU WERE ABLE TO SECURE THE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF MANDELA BEFOREHAND; OTHERWISE HE FORESAW PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD NO DOUBT SPILL OVER INTO THE NAM MEETING AT HARARE. HE ALSO SAW THE NEED FOR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND OTHER INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES BEFORE THE IMPOSITION OF ANY 'SELECTIVE SANCTIONS'.

3. OBASANJO WILL BE IN NIGERIA THROUGHOUT JULY, EXCEPT FOR A SHORT VISIT TO PARIS. THE NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY DOES NOT KEEP HIM INFORMED OF EVENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA (OBASANJO IMPLIED THAT AKINYEMI WAS A LAW UNTO HIMSELF). HE WOULD THEREFORE WELCOME ANY BRIEFING WE ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE HIM ON DEVELOPMENTS. OBASANJO IS WELL DISPOSED TO US AND I WOULD SEE CONSIDERABLE MERIT IN KEEPING HIM ABREAST OF EVENTS BY SENDING HIM THE TEXT OF IMPORTANT BRITISH STATEMENTS, SPEECHES, ETC ON SOUTH AFRICA. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT I RECEIVE THE NECESSARY MATERIAL FOR THIS PURPOSE.

EWANS

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