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PRIME MINISTER &  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T127/86

Union Buildings  
Pretoria

7 July 1986

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for the message conveyed to me this evening concerning Sir Geoffrey Howe's visit and for your understanding of the pressures on my programme.

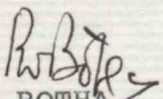
I was pleased to note that Sir Geoffrey will convey in clear terms to the ANC leadership that if progress is to be made, it can only be achieved by peaceful means and that he will be laying particular emphasis on the need to abandon violence.

In these circumstances, I shall be available to meet Sir Geoffrey at 14h30 on 23 July and if necessary again on the 29th July.

So far as a meeting with Mr Nelson Mandela is concerned, as I mentioned to you in my message of 1 July, I shall discuss this with Sir Geoffrey at our first meeting and let him have my decision then.

I appreciate the constructive terms of your message.

Yours sincerely

  
P W BOTHA  
STATE PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE RT HON MARGARET THATCHER  
PRIME MINISTER  
10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON



b 7c  
ck

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

8 July 1986

SOUTH AFRICA

I enclose a copy of a further message to the Prime Minister from President Botha which has just come in. As you will see, it is in rather a friendlier tone. It offers a meeting with the Foreign Secretary at 1430 on 23 July and a further meeting if necessary on 29 July. You will want to inform the Foreign Secretary of this in Strasbourg. I am inclined to think that any reply is best conveyed through our Embassy or through the South African Embassy here rather than by a further message. Obviously it would be helpful to get South African agreement to announcing the meeting as soon as possible.

(CHARLES POWELL)

A.C. Galsworthy, Esq., CMG,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



*South African Embassy*

TRAFALGAR SQUARE  
WC2N 5DP

8 July 1986

Mr Charles D Powell  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1

*Dear Charles,*

I attach a copy of a letter dated 7 July 1986 addressed to The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP from the State President Mr P W Botha in response to Mrs Thatcher's message of 7 July 1986.

It would be appreciated if you could bring the contents of the letter to the attention of the Prime Minister as soon as possible.

*Yours sincerely*  
*L H Evans*

L H EVANS  
MINISTER

*CEPC*

*Exhibition*  
*100%*  
*Pag*

SUBJECT  
COMASTER  
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South African Embassy

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. 127/86

(2)

7 July 1986

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1

Prime Minister  
A much friendlier  
message  
CDP 077.  
mf

Dear Prime Minister

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Yours sincerely

P W BOTHA  
STATE PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

*[Faint handwritten notes and signatures]*

7 JULY 1986

CC IF  
CP  
Press  
PU  
OK

BY PRIVATE NOTICE 2.

\*LA

DENIS HEALEY (SWANSEA EAST): TO ASK THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, WHETHER IT REMAINS HIS INTENTION TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA, AND IF SO WHAT ARE HIS PLANS.

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE

I INTEND TO MAKE AN EARLY START ON THE MISSION ENTRUSTED TO ME AT THE RECENT EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING IN THE HAGUE. I ACCORDINGLY PROPOSED LAST WEEK TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE AND SOUTH AFRICA THAT I SHOULD VISIT THEM IN THE PERIOD 9-11 JULY ON THE FIRST STAGE OF THE MISSION. THE ZAMBIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE CONFIRMED THAT A VISIT THIS WEEK IS CONVENIENT. THE ZIMBABWEAN AUTHORITIES HAVE GIVEN A SIMILAR INDICATION BUT WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR CONFIRMATION. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THEY ARE READY TO RECEIVE ME, BUT HAVE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE DATES. THESE ARE NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION. I SHALL THEREFORE PROCEED WITH THE VISIT TO LUSAKA AND HARARE, LEAVING FROM STRASBOURG TOMORROW EVENING, AND PLAN TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA LATER IN THE MONTH. FURTHER VISITS TO AND WITHIN THE REGION ARE OF COURSE NOT EXCLUDED.