

[RHODESIA: POLICY: ADVANCE COPIES]

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PS/SIR I GILMOUR
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
SIR D MAITLAND
MR DAY
LORD N G LENNOX
MR ASPIN

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

FLASH

SIR R ARMSTRONG)
MR R L WADE GERY)
MR P M MAXEY) CABINET
MR GOULTY) OFFICE
MR P J FOWLER)
DIO)

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HD/RHOD DEPT (4)

HD/C AF D
HD/S AF D

HD/PUSD (2)

HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/WAD

MR FREELAND LEGAL ADVISER RMK200A
MR FIFOOT LEGAL ADVISER RM K164
RESIDENT CLERK

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FROM CAPE TOWN EMBASSY 250745Z JAN 1980
TO FLASH FCO

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 042 OF 25 JANUARY

INFO FLASH SALISBURY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

INFO PRIORITY DAR ES SALAAM, LAGOS, GABORONE, MAPUTO, LUSAKA,
LUANDA, NAIROBI

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RHODESIA: SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS

1. THIS MORNING'S "CAPE TIMES" CARRIES AS ITS MAIN FRONT PAGE STORY A REPORT BY STANLEY UYS IN LONDON HEADLINED "TROOPS SET TO PULL OUT", IN WHICH HE SAYS THAT BRITAIN IS DISCUSSING THE EARLY WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS ON THE RHODESIAN SIDE OF BEIT BRIDGE WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND THAT AGREEMENT IS SAID TO BE NEAR. THE RAND DAILY MAIL HAS AN ALMOST IDENTICAL REPORT ON PAGE2.

2. TWO REASONS ARE GIVEN FOR THIS MOVE: AMERICAN CONCERN THAT SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS ARE DISTRACTING WORLD ATTENTION FROM AFGHANISTAN SEMICOLON AND AFRICAN PRESSURE ON THE UK.

3. UYS QUOTES FROM THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL'S LETTER TO MRS THATCHER THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE HAD CREATED A "SENSE OF OUTRAGE" IN AFRICA AND SAYS THAT IN PRIVATE MR RAMPHAL IS SAYING THAT THE ISSUE WOULD UNDERCUT THE POSITION OF MOST THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES ON AFGHANISTAN. THIS IS SAID TO BE PROVEN BY AFRICAN PRESSURE FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN NEW YORK TO DISCUSS THE SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS.

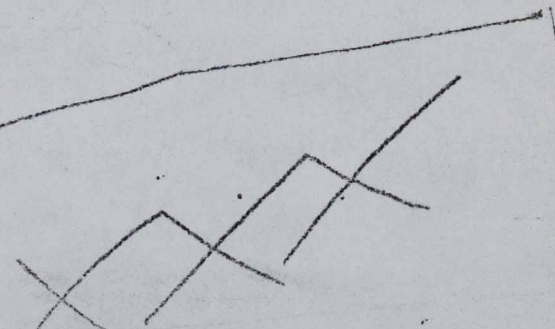
4. UYS QUOTES INFORMANTS AS SAYING THAT KENYA NO LONGER INTENDS TO PULL ITS CONTINGENT OUT OF THE COMMONWEALTH MONITORING FORCE BECAUSE OF REASSURANCES GIVEN BY BRITAIN RELATING TO THE CONSULTATIONS WITH PRETORIA. UYS QUOTES "AN OFFICIAL" (CAPE TIMES) AND "A BRITISH OFFICIAL" (RAND DAILY MAIL) AS SAYING, "WE DON'T EXPECT THE KENYANS TO PULL OUT NOW. YOU CAN DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS". UYS SAYS THAT THE PLAN UNDER DISCUSSION IS FOR RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES AND COMMONWEALTH MONITORING TROOPS TO TAKE OVER THE RESPONSIBILITY.

5. SEE MIFTS.

LEAHY

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LPT 712/25



[RHODESIA: POLICY: ADVANCE COPIES]

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HD/RHOD DEPT (4)

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HD/S AF D

HD/PUSD (2)

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FM CAPE TOWN EMBASSY 250835Z JANUARY 1980

TO FLASH FCO

TEL NO 43 OF 25 JANUARY

INFO FLASH SALISBURY

M I P T: SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN RHODESIA

1. I WAS SUMMONED BY PIK BOTHA THIS MORNING TO RECEIVE AN AIDE MEMOIRE ABOUT THIS REPORT. HE SAID THAT HE WAS DOING SO ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S INSTRUCTIONS AND THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR IN LONDON WOULD BE DELIVERING IT TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO HOURS. AT ONE STAGE HE SAID THAT AS SOON AS IT HAD BEEN DELIVERED IN LONDON THE TEXT WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC BUT AT THE END OF OUR CONVERSATION HE SAID THAT HE WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND WOULD CONFIRM TO ME WHETHER OR NOT THEY INTENDED TO PUBLISH. THE TEXT OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE IS AS FOLLOWS:

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT...

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IS PROFOUNDLY DISAPPOINTED AND SHOCKED BY A REPORT WHICH APPEARS IN TODAY'S (25 JANUARY) CAPE TIMES FROM STANLEY UYS IN LONDON, IN WHICH THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE, INTERNATIONALIA OCCURS:

''BRITAIN IS DISCUSSING THE EARLY WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS ON THE RHODESIAN SIDE OF BEIT BRIDGE WITH MR P W BOTHA'S GOVERNMENT. AGREEMENT IS SAID TO BE NEAR.''

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WOULD INFORM IT IF IT IS AWARE OF THE SOURCE OF THE ABOVE REPORT AND WHAT GAVE RISE TO IT.

THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT THE PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS AT BEIT BRIDGE HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY AND CATEGORICALLY APPROVED BY THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE/RHODESIA. THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT IS EQUALLY WELL AWARE THAT THERE IS AN INESCAPABLE OBLIGATION ON SOUTH AFRICA TO PROTECT BEIT BRIDGE, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS REAL IMPORTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA, BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT IS A VITAL LINK TO THE NORTH AND THUS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE REGION AS A WHOLE.

THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT NO APPROACH UP TO THE PRESENT MOMENT HAS BEEN MADE BY IT TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH A POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM THE BRIDGE. IN THE LIGHT, HOWEVER, OF THE POLITICAL EXPLOITATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S PRESENCE AT THE BRIDGE, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WISHES TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WISHES TO WITHDRAW ITS PRESENCE IN THE VICINITY OF THE BRIDGE ON THE RHODESIAN SIDE WITHIN ONE WEEK FROM TODAY ON THE CONDITION, HOWEVER, THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT PLACES A SUITABLE AND ADEQUATE MILITARY FORCE ON THAT SIDE OF THE BRIDGE TO ENSURE THE COMPLETE PROTECTION OF THE BRIDGE.

SHOULD THE BRIDGE BE DESTROYED OR IN ANY WAY DAMAGED, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE OBLIGED TO HOLD THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE.

2. PIK BOTHA WENT ON TO SAY THAT THEY ALSO WISHED TO CONVEY A SECOND MESSAGE TO US WHICH, UNLESS WE WISHED OTHERWISE, THEY INTENDED SHOULD BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. THE TEXT OF THIS SECOND MESSAGE IS BEING DELIVERED SHORTLY AND I WILL TELEGRAPH IT FLASH.

3. PIK BOTHA SAID THE THIRD MAIN POINT HE WISHED TO PUT ACROSS

3. PIK BOTHA SAID THE THIRD MAIN POINT HE WISHED TO PUT ACROSS TO ME WAS THAT UNTIL THE SAG HAD HAD OUR REPLY ON THESE POINTS AND HAD CONSIDERED THEIR IMPLICATIONS THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE US AN ANSWER ABOUT OUR REQUEST FOR TRANSPORT FOR THE ELECTIONS (MY TEL NO 38).

4. PLEASE SEE MIFT.

LEAHY

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28

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MR DAY
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MR ASPIN

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DIO)

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FM CAPE TOWN EMBASSY 250925Z JANUARY 1980
TO FLASH FCO

TEL NO 44 OF 25 JANUARY

INFO FLASH SALISBURY

M I P T

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1. OFF THE RECORD PIK BOTHA SAID THAT I SHOULD NOT UNDER-
ESTIMATE HOW UPSET THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN BY THIS DEVELOPMENT.
HE WAS, HE SAID, A "VERY STRAIGHT MAN" AND "HE COULD NOT TAKE
THIS SORT OF THING". HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE WHO
VIOLATED CONFIDENCES LIKE THIS. IT HAD SERIOUSLY SOURED HIS
ATTITUDE TOWARDS US. PIK BOTHA SAID THAT WE MUST DO WHAT WE COULD
TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE AND, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE WOULD LIKE TO
SUGGEST THAT I CONSIDER PROPOSING TO OUR PRIME MINISTER THAT SHE
SHOULD SEND A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO MR P W BOTHA.

2. PIK BOTHA WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHAT HAD HAPPENED HAD ALSO
SERIOUSLY AFFECTED HIS OWN CREDIBILITY IN THE CABINET AND HIS

SERIOUSLY AFFECTED HIS OWN CREDIBILITY IN THE CABINET AND HIS "USEFULNESS". YESTERDAY HE HAD REPORTED FULLY ON RHODESIA TO THE CABINET AND HAD PARTICULARLY PRAISED OUR HANDLING OF THE SITUATION THERE IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS. WHAT HAD NOW HAPPENED HAD UNDERMINED THE MUTUAL TRUST WHICH HE HAD BEEN EXTOLLING TO HIS COLLEAGUES.

3. PIK BOTHA ALSO SAID THAT THEY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY WE HAD NOT APPROACHED THEM DIRECT. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE STRAIGHT-FORWARD THING TO DO. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD WANTED TO PULL THE TROOPS OUT BEFORE, BUT WE HAD INDICATED TO THEM THAT AS LONG AS THEY WORE RHODESIAN UNIFORM IT WAS ALL RIGHT BY US. I COULD HAVE CONTESTED THIS BUT THERE SEEMED NO POINT IN ARGUING ABOUT HISTORY AS WELL.

4. I SAID THAT I AGREED THAT THE ARTICLE IN THE CAPE TIMES WAS EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE. I DID NOT KNOW WHAT ITS ORIGIN WAS AND WOULD TRY TO FIND OUT. PIK BOTHA INTERVENED TO SAY THAT HE WAS NOT ACCUSING US, BUT HE WAS BOUND TO ASSUME THAT ITS ORIGIN WAS THE FCO. HE HAD TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT HE COULD NOT BELIEVE IT WAS YOU PERSONALLY, BUT IT LOOKED LIKE AN FCO OFFICIAL. I SAID THAT WE HAD TAKEN A LOT OF STICK INTERNATIONALLY OVER BEIT BRIDGE AND HAD STOOD FIRM. PIK BOTHA SAID THEY HAD NOTED AND APPRECIATED THIS. I WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHEN HE AND I HAD TALKED BEFORE CHRISTMAS ABOUT THE DISPOSITION OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN RHODESIA WE HAD AGREED THAT IT WAS BEST LEFT FOR DIRECT DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE MILITARY, IE GENERALS WALLS AND MALAN. I KNEW THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANOTHER DISCUSSION YESTERDAY, ALTHOUGH I HAD NOT HEARD HOW IT HAD GONE. I HAD MYSELF BEEN EXPECTING TO GET INSTRUCTIONS TO SPEAK TO BRAND FOURIE TODAY. I SUGGESTED THAT IN A SENSE WALLS' DISCUSSION WITH MALAN COULD BE SEEN AS AN APPROACH FROM US. PIK BOTHA WAVED THIS ASIDE AND SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO LET IT BE KNOWN THAT WE HAD NOT APPROACHED THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OURSELVES. I UNDERSTAND THE D F A ARE ALREADY BRIEFING JOURNALISTS TO THIS EFFECT, WE OURSELVES ARE OFFERING NO COMMENT.

5. I SHOULD ADD THAT PIK'S WHOLE ATTITUDE WAS ONE OF SORROW RATHER THAN OF ANGER. HE SAID AT THE END THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS FEELING NOT SO MUCH ANGRY AS DISILLUSIONED.

LEAHY

[RHODESIA: POLICY: ADVANCE COPIES]

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ADVANCE COPY

FM CAPE TOWN EMBASSY 250945Z JANUARY 1980

TO FLASH F C O

TEL NO 46 OF 25 JANUARY

INFO FLASH SALISBURY

MY TEL NO 43: SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN RHODESIA

TEXT OF THE SECOND SECRET MESSAGE IS AS FOLLOWS:-

BEGINS:

FURTHER TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE HANDED TO THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED KINGDOM A SHORT WHILE AGO, ON THE SUBJECT OF A REPORT IN THE CAPE TIMES OF TODAY'S DATE CONCERNING ALLEGED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND SWUTH AFRICA ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS ON THE RHODESIAN SIDE OF BEIT BRIDGE, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WISHES TO INFORM THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT THAT IT IS PREPARED TO WITHDRAW ALL ITS TROOPS, IN WHATEVER CAPACITY AND WHERESOEVER THEY MAY BE SERVING, AND ALL ITS EQUIPMENT, FROM RHODESIA WITHIN ONE WEEK FROM TODAY.

WHERESOEVER THEY MAY BE SERVING, AND ALL ITS EQUIPMENT, FROM
RHODESIA WITHIN ONE WEEK FROM TODAY.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD WISH TO LEARN WHETHER THE
UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT CONCURS IN THIS WITHDRAWAL.

ENDS.

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