



(Could it possibly  
 give to the letter.  
 Its tone is much  
 too high-handed.  
 And we shall need  
 S. Mico's help over  
 the Rhodesia problem.  
 Have redrafted  
 in Tim

Prime Minister

Mr Heseltine and Lord  
 Carrington have approved the  
 attached draft. Are you  
 prepared to authorise it -  
 notwithstanding your earlier  
 reservations? (Could you  
 please ask to Lord. Monro's  
 to phone your decision to me).

2 MARSHAM STREET  
 LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref:

Your ref:

31 August 1979

TL 7/18

# PROPOSED TOUR BY SOUTH AFRICAN BARBARIANS RUGBY CLUB

Following the discussion at Cabinet yesterday and the Prime Minister's concern about the statements made in relation to the attitude of the Government to the proposed tour by the South African Barbarians Rugby Club, my Secretary of State has considered the action which might now be taken.

He takes the view that the Government is committed to the Gleneagles Agreement. The Foreign Secretary made this clear in the House of Lords on 19 June and, as the Prime Minister is aware, the first paragraph of the Lusaka Declaration on Racism and Racial Prejudice refers in its first paragraph to this Agreement. The Agreement commits the Government to take every practical step to discourage contact by its nationals with teams from South Africa. It is, of course, a matter of judgement how far the Government should go and what constitutes a "practical step".

Mr Monro's statement earlier in the week to the Press was prompted by the fact that there is to be a meeting on Sunday of the Home Rugby Unions. After careful consideration, my Secretary of State feels that it would be right for a letter to be sent before that meeting in order to make clear the attitude of the Government. This view is shared by Lord Carrington. I attach a proposed letter, which has been personally approved by Lord Carrington and Mr Heseltine for Mr Monro to send, subject of course to the agreement of the Prime Minister.

As I understand that the Prime Minister may not be able to consider this until tomorrow, I should be grateful if your office could give the decision direct to Mr Monro's Private Secretary, Geoff Needham, whose home telephone number is 505 8271.

I am copying this to Stephen Wall in Lord Carrington's office.

Yours sincerely  
 David Edmonds

D A EDMONDS  
 Private Secretary

Tim Lankester Esq

Flag A  
 Flag B



re typed 1/9/79 LB

DRAFT LETTER FROM MR MONRO TO J G M HART ESQ. HON SECRETARY, COMMITTEE OF HOME RUGBY UNIONS, BALFRON HERMITAGE ROAD, KENLEY, SURREY CR2 5EB

✓ I am writing to you about the invitation the Home Rugby Unions have extended to the South African Barbarians Club to tour here in October. ✓

There are wider sporting implications and I am sorry that the Unions did not seek prior consultation with the Government. I would, therefore, ask you to present this letter to the meeting of the Committee of Home Unions at their meeting on Sunday 2 September.

✓ I recognise that progress had been made over recent years, particularly in certain sports, in South Africa towards non-racialism. I note that the Barbarians team is reportedly to be a mixed one. ✓

✓ But, as you are aware, the implications of your invitation extend beyond Rugby. ✓ This country has obligations under the Gleneagles Agreement, a copy of which I enclose. ✓ convenience I attach a copy. ✓ The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary stated in Parliament on 19 June that the Government accepts this agreement. ✓ The Declaration on Racism and Racial Prejudice approved by Commonwealth Heads of Government at Lusaka earlier this month specifically refers to it.

✓ The Gleneagles Agreement lays a duty on each Government to take "every practical step to discourage" contacts with South African teams. Your invitation must <sup>therefore</sup> be viewed in this light. ✓ Our standing in world sport generally could well be damaged.

✓ I value the independence of our sports bodies. They have a right to order their own affairs. But I believe that they <sup>should</sup> ~~must~~ consider their wider responsibilities too, including those to their government and to fellow sportsmen.

✓ In the light of the Gleneagles Agreement

I would ask you, ~~therefore~~, to reconsider your invitation to the South African Barbarians Club. ~~At the same time, I must ask you not to proceed with plans for a British Lions tour next year to South Africa.~~

I am sending copies of this letter to the Presidents of the Home Rugby Unions and to the Chairmen of the Sports Councils.

Agree only as re checked above  
MS



The member countries of the Commonwealth, embracing peoples of diverse races, colours, languages and faiths, have long recognized racial prejudice and discrimination as a dangerous sickness and an unmitigated evil and are pledged to use all their efforts to foster human dignity everywhere. At their London meeting, the Heads of Government reaffirmed that apartheid in sports, as in other fields, is an abomination and runs directly counter to the declaration of Commonwealth principles which they made at Singapore on 22 January 1971.

They were conscious that sport is an important means of developing and fostering understanding between the people, and especially between the young people, of all countries. But, they were also aware that, quite apart from other factors, sporting contacts between their nationals and the nationals of countries practising apartheid in sport tend to encourage the belief (however unwarranted) that they are prepared to condone this abhorrent policy or are less than totally committed to the principles embodied in their Singapore declaration. Regretting past misunderstandings and difficulties and recognizing that these were partly the result of inadequate inter-governmental consultations, they agreed that they would seek to remedy this situation in the context of the increased level of understanding now achieved.

They reaffirmed their full support for the international campaign against apartheid and welcomed the efforts of the United Nations to reach universally accepted approaches to the question of sporting contacts within the framework of that campaign.

Mindful of these and other considerations, they accepted it as the urgent duty of each of their Governments vigorously to combat the evil of apartheid by withholding any form of support for, and by taking every practical step to discourage, contact or competition by their nationals with sporting organizations, teams or sportsmen from South Africa or from any other country where sports are organized on the basis of race, colour or ethnic origin.

They fully acknowledged that it was for each Government to determine in accordance with its laws the methods by which it might best discharge these commitments. But they recognized that the effective fulfilment of their commitments was essential to the harmonious development of Commonwealth sport hereafter.

They acknowledged also that the full realization of their objectives involved the understanding, support and active participation of the nationals of their countries and of their national sporting organizations and authorities. As they drew a curtain across the past they issued a collective call for that understanding, support and participation with a view to ensuring that in this matter the peoples and Government of the Commonwealth might help to give a lead to the world.

Heads of Government specially welcomed the belief, unanimously expressed at their meeting, that in the light of their consultations and accord there were unlikely to be future sporting contacts of any significance between Commonwealth countries or their nationals and South Africa while that country continues to pursue the detestable policy of apartheid. On that basis, and having regard to their commitments, they looked forward with satisfaction to the holding of the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton and to the continued strengthening of Commonwealth sport generally.



31 AUG 1979

