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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T82^c/84

cc Sir P Craddock

Part 1
9000b

16 MAY 1984/1649
ZCZC CLM6259 ABL674 AFGC20
GBLM CO ETAD 300
ADDISABABA 549/519 16 1640 P1/50 PART ONE

ETAT
HER EXCELLENCY
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
MRS. MARGARET THATCHER MP
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM AND NORTHERN IRELAND
LONDON SW1

R17
PPS

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO MY TELEGRAM OF
14 MAY 1984 BY WHICH I STRONGLY APPEALED TO YOUR
EXCELLENCY ON BEHALF OF AFRICA TO KINDLY WITHDRAW
THE INVITATION

R17
PPS

P2/50

EXTENDED TO MR. P. BOTHA, PRIME
MINISTER OF SOUTH AFRICA, TO VISIT LONDON, IN URGING
YOU ALSO TO REFRAIN FROM ANY OTHER ACTION WHICH WOULD
BE TANTAMOUNT TO PUTTING A SEAL OF APPROVAL TO THE
BRUTALITIES OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE ODIIOUS SYSTEM
OF APARTHEID WHICH HAVE BEEN UNIVERSALLY CONDEMNED

P3/50

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Teleg

BY

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, I HAD ENDEAVOURED TO
OUTLINE IN MY TELEGRAM WHY THE ENTIRE CONTINENT OF
AFRICA IS SO STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE IMPENDING VISIT.
BUT EVEN AS I WAS DISPATCHING THAT MESSAGE TO
YOU, I AM FOLLOWING, WITH CONSIDERABLE APPREHENSION
AND CONCERN THE NEWS OF THE DEPARTURE OF

P4/50

THE BRITISH
RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION TO SOUTH AFRICA TO HOLD MATCHES THERE.
YOUR EXCELLENCY IS FULLY AWARE THAT THE UNITED
NATIONS, THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND THE ORGANIZATION
OF AFRICAN UNITY HAVE, TIME AGAIN, AOPTED NUMEROUS
RESOLUTIONS OPPOSING AND PROHIBITING SPORTING CONTACTS
WITH RACIST SOUTH AFRICA WHICH, IN UTTER CONTEMPT AND

P5/50

ARROGANT DISREGARD OF THE WISHES OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY, ATTEMPTS TO PERPETUATE THE OBNOXIOUS POLICY
OF APARTHEID, THEREBY RELEGATING THE AFRICAN POPULATION
TO CONDITIONS OF ABYSMAL SLAVERY AND STARK DEGRDATION
FOR NO OTHER CAUSE THAN THE TEXTURE OF THEIR SKIN,
IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, ALLOWING ITS NATIONAL RUGBY TEAM
TO TRAVEL

P6/50

TO SOUTH AFRICA TO HOLD MATCHES WILL BE
NOTHING LESS THAN A REVERSAL OF POSITION BY THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT WHICH IS PUBLICLY ON THE RECORD AS BEING
OPPOSED TO THE POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF SOUTH AFRICA. EQUALLY, IT CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION
OF UNITED NATIONS DECISIONS WHICH THE

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16 MAY 1984/1714

ZCZC CLM6291 ABL675 AFGC20

GBXX CX ETAD 549

ADDISABABA 549/519 16 1640 P7/50 PART TWO

ETAT

HER EXCELLENCY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

MRS. MARGARET THATCHER MP

PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED

KINGDOM AND NORTHERN IRELAND

LONDON SW1

UNITED KINGDOM

HAD, BY AND LARGE, SUPPORTED OVER THE YEARS.

MOREOVER, THIS YEAR HAPPENS TO BE AN OLYMPIC YEAR

WHICH IS COMMEMORATED BY THE ADOPTION OF THE OLYMPIC

CHARTER THAT IS BASED UPON THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOUR, POLITICAL BELIEF, CREED OR

RELIGION. THE TOUR

P8/50

OF THE BRITISH RUGBY TEAM TO SOUTH

AFRICA AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, WILL, OBYIOUSLY, CONSTITUTE

A SERIOUS BREACH OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN

RIGHTS, AS WELL AS THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE OLYMPIC

CHARTER. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING AND IN MY CAPACITY AS

CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE

G.R No Trace
es
off

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P9/50

C.S NO TRACE

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
 AND ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT, I EARNESTLY APPEAL TO
 YOUR EXCELLENCY, ONCE AGAIN, TO URGENTLY TAKE WHATEVER
 ACTIONS MAY BE DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO RESTRAIN THE
 BRITISH RUGBY TEAM FROM HOLDING MATCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA.
 I AM CONVINCED THAT BY SO DOING, THE UNITED KINGDOM

P10/69

WILL HAVE UPHELD ITS GREAT TRADITION OF BELIEF IN THE
 EQUALITY OF PEOPLES AND THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON
 AS WELL AS CORRECTLY DISCHARGED ITS INTERNATIONAL
 RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE UNITED
 NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL.
 PLEASE ACCEPT, YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES
 OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION

MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM
 CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY
 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL AND OF THE
 COPWE, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE
 REVOLUTIONARY ARMY OF SOCIALIST
 ETHIOPIA

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South Africa - Visit of South African PM 4/84

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