

PS (6)

MR A J S GOODALL  
CABINET OFFICE

PS/MT RIPPIND

PS/NO. 10 DOWNING STREET

PS/PUS

~~SIR J BERRY~~

Mr. Johnson  
MR JAMES O'NEILL

HD/SAPD

HD/CAPD

HD/UND

HD/NEWS D

MR FREELAND LEGAL ADV. Rm. W216

RESIDENT CLERK



OO FCO

**IMMEDIATE**

GRS 603  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FM PRETORIA 151040Z SEP 84  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 353 OF 15 SEPTEMBER  
INFO ROUTINE JOHANNESBURG.  
INFO SAYING DURBAN, CAPE TOWN.

**ADVANCE COPY**

FROM ARCHER  
MY TEL NO 351 : DETAINEES

COMMENT

1. THE SITUATION IS UNCHANGED. THE SIX ARE UNLIKELY TO LEAVE UNLESS SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION IN SEEKING TO REDETAIN THEM IS INVALIDATED. THEY ARE MAKING NO PROGRESS WITH DEMANDS TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. THERE MAY BE RENEWED EFFORTS TO PRESS US TO INTERVENE.

DETAIL

2. THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SIX ARE PERSISTING WITH EFFORTS TO BRING A CHALLENGE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN SEEKING TO RETAIN THE SIX BEFORE THE COURTS BUT THEY HAVE NOT SO FAR HAD THEIR CASE ACCEPTED.
3. IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THERE IS ANY PROSPECT OF PROGRESS WITH DEMANDS TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WHO SEEM, NOT SURPRISINGLY, TO BE TAKING THE LINE THAT THEY WILL DO NOTHING WHILE THE SIX REMAIN WITHIN THE CONSULATE.
4. WE HAVE RECEIVED NO COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT ON THEIR INTENTIONS. THE MORNING PAPERS QUOTE AN UNIDENTIFIED GOVERNMENT MINISTER AS SAYING THAT EVEN IF THE SIX STAYED ON FOR 20 YEARS IN THE CONSULATE, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT INTERVENE.
5. FACED WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN ATTITUDE THE LAWYERS OF THE SIX

5. Faced with the South African attitude, the lawyers of the six appear to be attempting to organise pressure on the British government to intervene with the South African government. We understand from church contacts that they have asked the church authorities to try to bring pressure on the British government. The Natal Indian Congress have also been discussing whether to send representatives to London.

6. One of the NIC leaders in Durban has said that success in a court action would be only one of the factors that might persuade the six to leave. They require a reply to their demands to the South African government.

#### COMPLAINTS

7. The morning press reports on complaints of lack of access to the six by families but in fact we have allowed contact on both Thursday and Friday evening on consular premises but outside the secure area once other visitors and press had left and we could control the situation.

8. The other main complaint has been about toilet facilities. There are no toilet or washing facilities within the consular office. Our staff use toilets in another part of the Barclays building. So that the six have facilities in the consulate we have arranged portable toilet facilities in the room they have occupied. They are of course free to leave the consulate if they wish to but we have felt unable to give any assurances of what would then happen. (In practice they have used the toilets out of office hours when the building is shut and we have let them back into the consulate but we have not drawn attention to this in our press comments). We have so far declined to provide proper Elsan type portable toilets.

9. We are also refusing requests to provide office equipment, such as typewriters on the grounds that the six can communicate freely with their lawyers and are only in the consulate temporarily.

10. The consulate has attempted to continue to provide other services. All other rooms are occupied by the consulate staff including those displaced from the room occupied by the six. But in practice little normal work has been possible since Thursday morning. Normal visitors are finding it difficult to reach the consulate. The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce visitors have reported that the Afrikaners Chamber of Commerce has declined to see them while the present situation continues. We have various indications of growing criticism of our role in harbouring the six among the African community.

11. We are coping with the present situation although with some difficulty for those in Durban whom we have reinforced from Pretoria. Staff are on duty in the consulate round the clock.

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