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RECEIVED NO. 37		
10 OCT 1984		

DESKBY 161830Z
FM FCC 161805Z OCT 84
TO IMMEDIATE PRETORIA
TELEGRAM NUMBER 291 OF 16 OCT 84

MIPT: PRESIDENT BOTHA'S LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER
1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESIDENT BOTHA'S LETTER TO

BEGINS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 10 OCTOBER 1984.
THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED IN YOUR LETTER, PRIME
MINISTER, WHICH CAUSE ME AND MY GOVERNMENT SERIOUS CONCERN.
THE CONTINUED REFUSAL OF YOUR GOVERNMENT SERIOUSLY TO ADDRESS
THE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT,
PARTICULARLY, THOSE RELATING TO THE IMPROPER USE OF THE BRITISH
CONSULATE IN DURBAN, HAS ALREADY NECESSITATED AN ACT OF
REPRISAL WHICH, I CAN ASSURE YOU, WAS TAKEN ONLY AFTER
PAINSTAKING DELIBERATION.

EMINENT COUNSEL IN BRITAIN HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SET OUT THE
CASE IN A BRITISH COURT ON 22 OCTOBER 1984 FOR OUR DECISION
NOT TO REQUIRE THE FOUR SOUTH AFRICANS ON BAIL TO RETURN
TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

I SHALL REPLY IN DETAIL SOON SETTING OUT THE REASONS FOR
MY GOVERNMENT'S DECISION AND ATTACHING A LEGAL OPINION
CONTAINING THE POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL LAW.
WE WOULD NOT WISH THIS INCIDENT TO HAVE A DAMAGING EFFECT
ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE IMPORTANT RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR
TWO COUNTRIES.

YOURS SINCERELY

PW BOTHA

STATE PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ENDS

HOWE

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

SOUTHERN AFRICA

STANDARD(PALACE)

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MR J R J JOHNSON

CABINET OFFICE

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