



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 August 1985

Dear David,

Lord Rothschild: South Africa

/ As requested in your letter of 29 August I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Lord Rothschild's letter of 28 August. ^{attached}

We can only applaud Lord Rothschild's sentiments in writing to President Botha in this way. Privately, however, we are not particularly sanguine about its likely impact on the South African State President. The Chairman of the Urban Foundation in South Africa has recently given us a depressing account of President Botha's current attitudes and outlook, suggesting that in his present frame of mind the State President appears largely impervious to outside advice. The Urban Foundation is a private sector body in South Africa dedicated to improving living standards for the black community and maintaining links with them. Their Afrikaaner President, Judge Jan Steyn, has close contacts with National Party Ministers.

Yours Sincerely,
Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

David Norgrove Esq
10 Downing Street

Please type.

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: **TEL. NO:**

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

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Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 28 August.

CAVEAT.....

I thought that your message to President Botha was both admirably succinct and helpful. As you know, we have been urging the South African Government for some time to take bold steps towards fundamental reforms. Until they do so I fear that there will be no early end to the serious difficulties which they are now facing.

Enclosures—flag(s).....