

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
FM **PRETORIA**
TO PRIORITY FCO
TEL NO 257
OF 30 AUGUST 85
INFO ROUTINE JOHANNESBURG
INFO SAVING DURBAN AND CAPE TOWN

MY TELNO 243: **SOUTH AFRICA: INTERNAL SITUATION**

GENERAL ASSESSMENT

1. THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IN THE **BLACK AND COLOURED COMMUNITIES** HAS WORSENEO PARTICULARLY AFTER THE **INDISCRIMINATE DETENTIONS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AT THE END OF LAST WEEK**, THE BANNING OF COSAS AND THE DETENTION OF OTHER BLACK PROMINENT LEADERS INCLUDING DR BOESAK. THE WIDESPREAD BITTERNESS AND INCREASING CONFRONTATION BETWEEN LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THE POLICE IN THE WESTERN CAPE IS A SIGNIFICANT EXTENSION OF THE GENERAL PATTERN OF UNREST. ALTHOUGH THE **POLICE AND SADF** HAVE THE RESOURCES TO DEAL WITH LOCAL DISORDERS, THE EMERGENCY POWERS HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED IN DAMPENING DOWN THE **UNDERLYING TENSION**. THERE IS A GROWING FEELING AMONG YOUNG BLACKS THAT EVENTS ARE MOVING THEIR WAY AND THAT THEY MUST KEEP CONFRONTATION ALIVE. THE FAILURE TO RESTORE ORDER AS WELL AS WORRIES ABOUT THE GENERAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND THE RAND HAVE INCREASED CALLS BY THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY FOR MEANINGFUL REFORMS.

WESTERN CAPE

2. THE SITUATION IN THE COLOURED AND BLACK TOWNSHIPS AROUND CAPE TOWN REMAINS TENSE FOLLOWING MOUNTING UNREST IN THE AREA THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. THE LATEST REPORTS ARE OF 20 DEATHS AND ABOUT 150 PEOPLE INJURED INCLUDING 17 POLICE. MANY OF THOSE TREATED IN HOSPITAL ARE REPORTED TO HAVE HAD BIRD SHOT WOUNDS IN THEIR BACKS. INCIDENTS OF STONE THROWING, LOOTING, PETROL BOMBING AND ARSON IN BOTH COLOURED AND BLACK AREAS ARE STRETCHING THE POLICE AND THERE HAS BEEN CRITICISM IN CAPE TOWN OF POLICE TACTICS INCLUDING CLAIMS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN THAT STONE THROWING BY A SMALL GROUP OF STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY HAD BEEN PROVOKED BY THE WAY IN WHICH THE POLICE HAD SET ABOUT BREAKING UP A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION.

3. AS IN OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, INCIDENTS HAVE INCLUDED ATTACKS ON THE HOMES OF BLACK POLICE, SCHOOLS AND IN AT LEAST ONE CASE THE HOME OF STUDENTS WHO HAD DECLINED TO PARTICIPATE IN PROTESTS.

1 STUDENT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

STUDENT PROTEST

4. THE BANNING OF THE BLACK CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS (COSAS) HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY WIDESPREAD STUDENT PROTEST INCLUDING MEETINGS AT UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES ORGANISED BY THE AZANIAN STUDENT ORGANISATION (AZASO) AND THE WHITE STUDENTS ORGANISATION, THE NATIONAL UNION OF SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS (NUSAS). BLACK SCHOOLTEACHERS HAVE TOLD US THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION HAS CONTRIBUTED TO A SPREAD IN THE BOYCOTT OF SCHOOLS IN VARIOUS AREAS INCLUDING PRETORIA WHERE STUDENTS IN ATTERIDGEVILLE WHO HAVE UP TO THIS WEEK BEEN ATTENDING SCHOOL ARE NOW JOINING WITH THE STUDENTS IN OTHER BLACK TOWNSHIPS IN A BOYCOTT THAT NOW APPEARS TO BE AFFECTING MOST OF THE BLACK HIGH SCHOOLS.

BUSINESS CRITICISM

5. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THIS WEEK'S INCREASED TENSION IN BLACK AND COLOURED AREAS AND THE SUSPENSION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEALINGS BUSINESS LEADERS HAVE RENEWED THEIR CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE URGENT STEPS TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION. A STATEMENT ISSUED JOINTLY LAST NIGHT BY THE ASSOCIATION OF THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (ASSOCOM), THE FEDERATED CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES (FCI), THE NATIONAL AFRICAN FEDERATED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES (NAFCOC) AND THE URBAN FOUNDATION CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH BLACK LEADERS, INCLUDING THOSE IN JAIL, AND TO TAKE SPECIFIC STEPS TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATION INCLUDING THE LIFTING OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AS SOON AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT, AN UNDERTAKING TO MOVE AWAY FROM DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION AND AN OPEN AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION. IN SEPARATE STATEMENTS THE CHAIRMAN OF ANGLO-AMERICAN, GAVIN RELLY, CALLED YESTERDAY FOR THE ACCELERATION OF THE REFORM PROGRAMME, PARTICULARLY REGARDING CITIZENSHIP, INFLUX CONTROL, A POSITIVE URBANISATION POLICY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A UNITARY EDUCATION SYSTEM AND THE CHAIRMAN OF REMBRANDT, ANTON RUPERT, CALLED FOR INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIP ON THE BASIS OF COOPERATION, REGARDLESS OF RACE OR COLOUR AND FOR THE RAPID DISMANTLING OF REGULATORY CONTROLS.

GENERAL LAW AND ORDER SITUATION

6. REPORTS REACHING US FROM BLACK CONTACTS IN THE TRANSVAAL AND CAPE SUGGEST THAT THE DEFENCE FORCE IS INCREASINGLY BEING DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF THE POLICE. A NUMBER OF THE INCIDENTS REPORTED THIS WEEK INVOLVED DETENTIONS AND CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CROWDS AND PATROLS HAVE INVOLVED SADF PERSONNEL. THE SADF WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE DETENTION OF SCHOOL STUDENTS AT THE END OF LAST WEEK. BLACKS TELL US THAT THE DETENTIONS, WHICH IN MANY CASES WERE CARRIED OUT IN AN INDISCRIMINATORY

/WAY

-2-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

WAY, HAVE CONTRIBUTED CONSIDERABLY TO THE OVERALL FEELING OF BITTERNESS IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY.

BLACK ATTITUDES

7. THE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO CALM DOWN THE OVERALL SITUATION ARE NOT SUCCEEDING. BLACKS AND PARTICULARLY THE YOUNGER GENERATION IN THE TOWNSHIPS FEEL THAT THE UNREST IS SUCCEEDING AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF GROWING REPORTS OF CRITICAL WORLD REACTION AND WHAT BLACKS SEE AS SIGNS OF IRRESOLUTION BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. IN THIS SITUATION BLACKS NOT INVOLVED IN THE UNREST ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO INCREASING PRESSURES TO JOIN IN AND MANY ARE INFLUENCED BY THE ARGUMENT THAT THEY SHOULD NOT STAND BY UNCOMMITTED WHILE OTHERS SUFFER. THIS SEEMS TO BE AN ELEMENT IN WHAT HAS HAPPENED THIS WEEK IN THE WESTERN CAPE WHICH HAD HITHERTO BEEN RELATIVELY CALM. THE COLOURED COMMUNITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE HAS ALSO REACTED ANGILY TO THE DETENTION OF DR BOESAK.

8. A FEW OF THE OLDER GENERATION OF BLACKS ARE STILL URGING CALM. TOM BOYA, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EAST RAND URBAN COUNCILS ASSOCIATION, AND MAYOR OF DAVEYTON, BENONI, WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THIS WEEK THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ONLY LIFT THE EMERGENCY REGULATIONS WHEN THE VIOLENCE IN THE TOWNSHIPS WAS OVER. BUT OTHER PROMINENT COMMUNITY LEADERS HAVE TOLD US THAT, IF THEY TOOK A SIMILAR LINE, THEIR STANDING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES WOULD BE DESTROYED. THE OVERWHELMING PRESSURE IN THE TOWNSHIPS IS FOR BLACK SOLIDARITY.

MOBERLY

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

SOUTHERN AFRICA

STANDARD(PALACE)

S AF D

OADS

UND

NAD

ECDs

SOVIET D

MR J R J JOHNSON
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
SOUTHERN AFRICA

-3-
CONFIDENTIAL