

cc/pc  
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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister  
Agree to see  
Bishop Tutu?

2 September 1985

Dear Charles,

CDP

2/9.

Yes not

South Africa : Bishop Tutu

We have been told by the Director of the Overseas Student Trust that Bishop Tutu (who is a personal friend of the Director) will be visiting the United Kingdom from 3 to 6 October. The Director has asked whether it would be possible for Bishop Tutu to see the Prime Minister.

As you know, Bishop Tutu, who was awarded the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize and appointed Bishop of Johannesburg earlier this year, has no official status as a political leader. But he has shown over the last several weeks that he is able to speak publicly for the aspirations of the urban black community in South Africa, and to hold the respect of large black audiences. A recent opinion poll in the Sunday Times suggested that after Nelson Mandela he had the largest support of any black leader among urban blacks and more than Chief Buthelezi. He has consistently worked for peaceful change, and has shown considerable courage in recent weeks in publicly opposing violence. In July, he rescued a suspected police informer from an angry funeral crowd, and shortly afterwards he made an impassioned public appeal against such violence, stating that he would leave South Africa unless the mob killings ceased.

As an internationally recognised spokesman for the black cause, Bishop Tutu is regularly received by Heads of Government when he travels overseas. He called on President Reagan earlier this year. The publicity he has received has made him one of the best-known opponents of apartheid to the UK public, and he is widely respected here.

Our Ambassador in Pretoria, who called on Bishop Tutu a month ago, believes that it would be helpful if the call which Chief Buthelezi recently made on the Prime Minister could be balanced by a similar meeting with Bishop Tutu. A call by Bishop Tutu on the Prime Minister would be a good opportunity to demonstrate our concern to listen to all shades of black

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opinion in South Africa, to explain our own policy and to urge dialogue between the South African Government and black leaders. Lambeth Palace told us recently that Bishop Tutu is in regular touch with the Archbishop of Canterbury and that the Bishop's relations with Lambeth Palace are very good indeed. We believe that they would be likely to welcome a meeting between Bishop Tutu and the Prime Minister.

In the light of these considerations the Foreign Secretary very much hopes that the Prime Minister could agree to see the Bishop.

*Yours ever,*

*Len Appleyard*

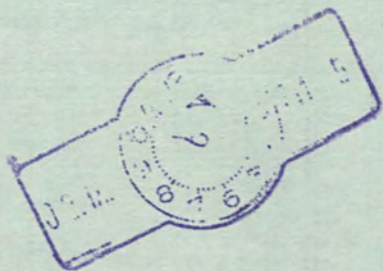
(L V Appleyard)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET

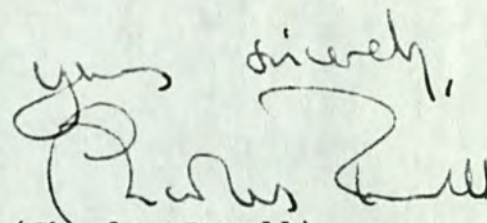
From the Private Secretary

2 September 1985

Dear Colin,

South Africa: Visit of Bishop Tutu

Lambeth Palace tell me that Bishop Tutu will be in London at the very end of September/early October to attend the Anglican Consultative Council. The question will no doubt arise whether the Prime Minister should see him, assuming that it is possible in diary terms. It would be helpful to have the Foreign Secretary's views on whether it would be desirable for the Prime Minister to see him.

Yours sincerely,  
  
(Charles Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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