


 Foreign and Commonwealth Office
 JSS 2276

London SW1A 2AH

See 20

 Mr Humphrey ^{Case}

Mr Manning

23 September 1985

Splendid quote.

Dear Charles,

\$ 24.9

Call on the Prime Minister by Bishop Tutu
(17)

Thank you for your letter of 10 September on the subject of Bishop Tutu's attitude to violence. We believe that the Prime Minister can safely meet Bishop Tutu on the basis that he is a committed opponent of violence. His position has been made public on several occasions in recent months as he has used, and indeed risked, his influence in an attempt to stem the violence in the townships.

We do not have a record of the television interview to which you refer. There would, of course, be a distinction between having some sympathy for those who are tempted to violence and supporting or condoning their actions. The information which we have all suggests that while Tutu is prepared to support, or at least not disavow, "civil disobedience" he does not support violence. In a speech on 11 September to a church gathering in Pietermaritzburg he said that he would organise a week long nationwide stay away from work and schools if the Government did not agree to lift the state of emergency, withdraw the SADF from the townships, charge or release political detainees and sit down and talk to authentic representatives of the black communities. But this was not a call for violence. Indeed, as Len Appleyard mentioned in his letter of 2 September, Tutu has gone of out his way publicly to oppose violence. After a funeral in Duduza in mid-July Bishop Tutu showed great personal courage in physically intervening, together with Bishop Simeon Nkoane, to save a suspected "collaborator" from a mob set on beating him to death. This incident was filmed by newsmen and given very prominent coverage here.

In a further attempt to stem the violence Bishop Tutu spoke out violently against such killings at Kwathema on 23 July, threatening that if the violence did not stop he would leave the "struggle" and even leave South Africa.

His commitment appears to stem from his belief that he is enjoined to non-violence by the Christian faith. The following is an extract from an interview he gave to the June 1985

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edition of "Leadership SA":

"There are some things that our faith demands of us which I would much rather it didn't. When God says "Love P W Botha", I say to him, "You can't be serious, God". He then says "I am". The consequence of being a member of the body of Jesus Christ is that P W is your brother."

Bishop Tutu told our Ambassador on 30 July that he feared that young people of the black community would soon shake off his leadership and that of others like him "wishing to keep the peace". He contrasted his own position with that of those who wanted violent solutions.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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Tutu will seek sanctions at Thatcher meeting

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Bishop Desmond Tutu, the Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg and winner of the Nobel peace prize, is to hold talks on Thursday with Mrs Thatcher on the continuing racial crisis in South Africa.

The bishop, who will be in London to attend a planning session for the 1988 Lambeth Conference, will also have talks with Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader.

He is also to have a private meeting with Mr Oliver Tambo, the leader of the banned African National Congress (ANC), who will be in London at the same time.

During his talks at Downing Street, Bishop Tutu will urge

Mrs Thatcher to join other Commonwealth countries in applying economic sanctions against South Africa.

Although Britain last week joined its European partners in approving political and military restrictive measures against Pretoria it has resolutely refused to apply economic sanctions.

Mrs Thatcher's failure to find time to see Bishop Tutu when he was in London a year ago caused offence to him and to many South African blacks, particularly as the Prime Minister had found time during the same year to see President Botha and Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, the Zulu leader.