

GRS 190

UNCLASSIFIED
FM PRETORIA
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 437

OF 291500Z OCTOBER 85

INFO ROUTINE CANBERRA, OTTAWA, LUSAKA, HARARE, NEW DELHI
INFO ROUTINE NASSAU, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK
INFO SAVING CAPE TOWN (CONSULATE), DURBAN, JOHANNESBURG

COMMONWEALTH MISSION ON SOUTH AFRICA

1. IN A SPEECH ON THE EVE OF THE 30 SEPTEMBER BY-ELECTIONS
THE STATE PRESIDENT TOUCHED ON THE COMMONWEALTH INITIATIVE.

2. MR BOTHA SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA DID NOT NEED A COMMON-
WEALTH COMMITTEE TO COME TO SOUTH AFRICA IN ORDER TO FACIL-
ITATE CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE ASKED WHAT THE COMMONWEALTH
COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELLBEING OF SOUTH AFRICA. OF THE
AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE 7 WERE ONE-
PARTY STATES, 4 WERE DECTATORSHIPS AND ONE WAS A MONARCHY
WITHOUT A CONSTITUTION. HE WISHED TO KNOW WHICH ONE OF THESE
THE COMMONWEALTH PROPOSED OFFERING AS A MODEL FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

3. SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT BE DICTATED TO. HE DID NOT BELIEVE
IN THE POLITICS OF BOYCOTT. SOUTH AFRICA TRADE WITH AFRICAN
COUNTRIES HAD PROVED THIS. DURING THE PAST 6 MONTHS THE VALUE
OF SOUTH AFRICA'S EXPORTS TO THE REST OF THE CONTINENT HAD
BEEN R900 MILLION MORE THAN THE FIGURE FOR THE PRVIOUS 6 MONTH
PERIOD. THERE WERE TWO THINGS WHICH SOUTH AFRICA COULD NOT
ACCEPT: PRESCRIPTIONS FROM OVERSEAS AND 'ANY SUGGESTION THAT
ANYONE ESLE EXCEPT SOUTH AFRICA'S OWN PEOPLE SHOULD SOLVE ITS
PROBLEMS'.

MOBERLY

SOUTHERN AFRICA
STANDARD (PALACE)
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CABINET OFFICE

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