

Anti-Apartheid Movement 13 Selous Street, London NW1 ODW
01-387 7966 (3 lines)
For freedom in Southern Africa

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP,
The Prime Minister
10 Downing St,
London SW1

2nd June 1984

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

The presence of the Prime Minister of apartheid South Africa in Britain - the seat of the Commonwealth - must be a great source of comfort for the apartheid regime.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement and the thousands of our supporters who have joined our demonstrations today are deeply angered that despite widespread national and international protests you have decided to persist with your invitation to P.W.Botha. This visit represents the first ever by a Prime Minister of South Africa since it was excluded from the Commonwealth in 1961.

P.W.Botha's tour is primarily designed to overcome international isolation, obtain respectability for the apartheid system, and to sabotage the mandatory United Nations arms embargo. At the same time he is seeking increased western support for his "Pax Pretoriana" policy for the region.

It is because of this that British and world public opinion is so anxious about the implications of your meeting with P.W.Botha. The Nigerian Government and other members of the Commonwealth have expressed their grave concern, as have the Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity and the Chairman of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid who both urged you to cancel the invitation.

In addition, by coincidence or design, the English Rugby team plays its first test match against South Africa today in open defiance of the Gleneagles Agreement.

We are particularly concerned that during the past month the Anti-Apartheid Movement has failed to secure assurances from your Government that it will honour the UN mandatory arms embargo by refusing to permit the export of replacements for the Shackleton surveillance aircraft. Indeed, despite reports that British Aerospace has discussed a request for Coastguarder aircraft by South Africa, your Government insists this is a hypothetical question, thus making us even more anxious that Britain is contemplating relaxing the arms embargo.

..../cont.

We should like to take this opportunity of requesting once more the assurances we have sought, namely that Britain will honour its obligations under the arms embargo and refuse to grant export licences for replacements for the Shackleton fleet.

Similarly we need an assurance that Britain remains committed to the decisions of the Commonwealth Summit at New Delhi in November 1983; in particular:

1. that it will strive for the "speedy and unconditional implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 (1978)" on Namibia,
2. that everything possible will be done to restrain South Africa in its aggressive role towards its neighbours,
3. and that the basis for a just and lasting solution to the situation in Southern Africa is "the establishment of majority rule on the basis of free and fair exercise of universal adult suffrage by all the people of South Africa in a united and non-fragmented South Africa".

This week the appeal by the Kwa Ngema community to Her Majesty the Queen, recalling the sacred trust deed for their land granted in the name of King Edward VII, vividly highlights Britain's unique and continuing responsibility towards the peoples of Southern Africa.

Britain has, to date, failed to discharge this responsibility honourably. To do so, surely, it must side with those who are striving for freedom.

We look forward to receiving your assurances.

Yours sincerely,

+ Trevor Huddleston C.R.

+ Trevor Huddleston CR

President