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Last Updated: 07/18/2024

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: SYSTEM FILES

Withdrawer

RBW 8/26/2019

File Folder 8500964-8500974

FOIA

S9568

Box Number 4

SYSTEMATIC

12

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
242477	MEMO	ROBERT MCFARLANE TO RR RE. LETTER FROM PRESIDENT BOTHA	2	2/20/1985	B1
242503	MEMO	PHILLIP RINGDAHL TO ROBERT MCFARLANE RE. SOUTH AFRICA: BOTHA'S LETTER TO RR	2	2/8/1985	B1
242504	MEMO	NICHOLAS PLATT TO MCFARLANE RE. BOTHA'S LETTER TO RR	4	2/5/1985	B1
242507	NOTE	LAUX TO MCFARLANE RE. MX ISSUE	1	2/6/1985	B1
242505	MEMO	DAVID LAUX TO MCFARLANE RE. AUSTRALIA	2	2/5/1985	B1
242506	PAPER	RE. MX	3	ND	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF CLASIFICATION (S) (S) (S)

RECEIVED 05 FEB 85 19

TO PRESIDENT FROM BOTHA, PIETER W DOCDATE 25 JAN 85
PLATT, N 05 FEB 85
RINGDAHL 08 FEB 85

KEYWORDS: SOUTH AFRICA

HS

SUBJECT: PRES BOTHA REPLY TO PRES 7 JAN LTR RE APARTHEID

ACTION PREPARE MEMO FOR MCFARLANE DUE 15 FEB 85 STATUS S FILES PA

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

RINGDAHL

FORTIER

PEARSON

COMMENTS

REF# 8503286 LOG 8409315 NSCIFID (JF)

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
<i>Pa/indexer</i>	<i>IP 2/16</i>	<i>Find 40 Pres for Info</i>	<i>-</i>	
<i>Pres</i>	<i>IP 2/20</i>	<i>information</i>		<i>UP</i>
	<i>C 2/21</i>	<i>Pres Noted</i>		<i>PR</i>
	<i>- 2/28</i>	<i>Recd state unum</i>		

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH

FILE

*PA**(C) DR*

NSC/S PROFILE

SECRET

ID 8500967

RECEIVED 05 FEB 85 19

TO PRESIDENT FROM BOTH A, PIETER W
PLATT, N

DOCDATE 25 JAN 85

05 FEB 85

KEYWORDS: SOUTH AFRICA

HS

SUBJECT: STATE PRES BOTH A REPLY TO PRES 7 JAN LTR RE APARTHEID

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR MCFARLANE DUE. 07 FEB 85 STATUS S FILES PA

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

RINGDAHL

FORTIER

PEARSON

COMMENTS

REF# 8503286 LOG 8409315 NSCIFID (JF)

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

No action req'd - Per Ringdahl 2/7				
C 2/8	No Action Required per Ringdahl			
McFarlane	2/8	Reopened/For info		
	2/12	Noted by Poindeexter w/comment		
Ringdahl	S 2/13	For further Action	2/15	

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE

(C 27)

**National Security Council
The White House**

System #

T

Package #

0967

11 07

1573

SEQUENCE TO

HAS SEEN

DISPOSITION

Bob Pearson

1

Bob Kimmitt

2

K

John Poindexter

3



Paul Thompson

Wilma Hall

Bud McFarlane

Bob Kimmitt

4

K

NSC Secretariat

Situation Room

Keng dahl

5

12 FEB 1965

A per JMP
here. 7

t = Information

A = Action

R = Retain

D = Dispatch

N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other

COMMENTS

Should be seen by:

(Date/Time)

Bob,

I think President would like to see this response. Please have memo to him prepared. J

4

National Security Council
The White House

System #

I

Package #

967

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson			
Bob Kimmitt	1	K	
John Poindexter			
Paul Thompson			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane			
Bob Kimmitt			
NSC Secretariat	2	2/21	N
Situation Room			

I = Information	A = Action	R = Retain	D = Dispatch	N = No further Action
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cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____

(Date/Time)

~~Pres add~~
~~Date~~ 2/21?

Kms

National Security Council
The White House

System # 1585

Package # 1767

F 15 P 5:56

1585

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	<u>1</u>	<u>P</u>	
Bob Kimmitt	<u>2</u>	<u>J</u>	
John Poindexter	<u>3</u>	<u>J</u>	
Paul Thompson			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane	<u>4</u>	<u>h</u>	<u>A</u>
Bob Kimmitt			
NSC Secretariat	<u>5</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>D</u>
Situation Room			

I = Information

A = Action

R = Retain

D = Dispatch

N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____

(Date/Time)

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~~SECRET~~

(Classification)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 8506127

Date 2/27/85

For: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane
National Security Council
The White House

Reference:

To: President Reagan From: State President Botha
Date: January 25, 1985 Subject: Reform in South Africa

WH Referral Dated: NSC ID#
(if any)

☒ The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State

Action Taken:

- ☐ A draft reply is attached.
- ☐ A draft reply will be forwarded.
- ☐ A translation is attached.
- ☐ An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
- ☒ We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below.
- ☐ The Department of State has no objection to the
proposed travel.
- ☐ Other.

Remarks: This is the original of State President P.W. Botha's letter to President Reagan, an advance copy of which was forwarded to the NSC on February 5 along with the Department's summary and analysis of the letter (S/S-S No. 8503286). As indicated in the Department's analysis, we see no need for a response at this time.

Nicholas Platt
Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

~~SECRET~~
(Classification)

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)
RW 8/26/19



Tuynhuys
Cape Town

25 January 1985

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The President of the United States
of America
The White House
WASHINGTON D.C.

Dear Mr President

Thank you for your letter of January 7, 1985.

My Government is indeed committed to constructive and meaningful reform toward a just society for all our citizens. I was pleased to receive your recognition of this fact as well as your assurance that your Administration will not alter its commitment to the course of action and the policies which you have established towards Southern Africa.

I take note of your intention to work to defeat Congressional legislative initiatives contrary to United States interests. I believe that my Government's determination to pursue constructive reform is clearly demonstrated by its actions. I feel, in fact, that our actions speak for themselves.

I would, however, request you, Mr President, to bear in mind that the situation in South Africa can legitimately only be tested against our own past and the regional context in which South Africa is placed. The fact that Whites have contributed greatly to our development does not make us an appendage of either Europe or North America, to be judged against the political, social, economic and technological standards that countries on those continents have set themselves against the background of their own past. South Africa is sui generis.

Historical File

DECLASSIFIED
Authority State Waiver
BY fw NARA DATE 8/26/19

CONFIDENTIAL

You know that the path of political reform is not easy. Each advance must be consolidated, often against a background of intense internal opposition. It could be counter-productive for the reformer to disregard the concerns of his own people. The idealist does not help humanity if he has no chance to give practical shape to his ideas. Thus what to outsiders may seem small steps, may be giant strides when viewed in context.

For the first time in the history of our country, more communities than before are directly represented in Parliament and in the Government. This has indisputably broadened the democratic base of our system. It reflects the acceptance that one part of our population cannot on its own pursue our goals for South Africa and cannot on its own protect our common fatherland against those things that threaten it. All the communities, all reasonable South Africans, will have to stand together if we are to lead our country to peace, safety and development.

We are committed to co-operative co-existence, and we believe that this ideal can be achieved only if the diversity of our society is recognised and it is accepted that the composition of our country's population need not be an obstacle in our way. But this is possible only within a system in which there is no domination of one population group over another, which in turn requires self-determination for each group over its own affairs and joint responsibility for and co-operation on common interests.

In the constitutional field a new era has dawned in which we have finally broken with the colonialist past that characterised this subcontinent for so many decades and was responsible for so many restrictions on political participation. As far as the other levels of government are concerned, a new dispensation is already being systematically implemented at the local government level to give all communities a say in decision-making processes that affect them at that level. It has already been decided to involve Black local authorities in the Council for the Co-ordination of Local Government Affairs and in the Regional Services Councils, whose activities are going to be of great importance in the daily life of every South African.

The unrest in Black urban areas cannot be ignored. It must, however, be emphasised that steps will continue to be taken against those who promote violence and lawlessness. There is clear evidence that the vast majority of the residents of these areas support the Government's action to

CONFIDENTIAL

maintain order and are themselves beginning to oppose the element of crime and violence that is thwarting efforts to improve the quality of life and participation in political processes.

At the same time the Government acknowledges that there are certain problems that lead to frustration in Black communities. The elimination of these problems is receiving urgent attention so as to create better prospects for all. We cannot lose sight of the fact that in the final instance the security of South Africa depends on the willingness of all our people, despite the considerable diversity, to accept that we have common interests and goals.

My Government is resolved to pursue peaceful and democratic solutions that satisfy the requirements of fairness and justice. The Government's general constitutional goal is, while maintaining security, stability and self-determination for each group, to give all the country's people a say in decision-making that affects their interests. This applies to all the population communities of South Africa.

Indeed, I appointed a Special Cabinet Committee to make recommendations, after investigation and negotiation, on the way in which this goal can be given practical expression in the form of constitutional structures involving the Black communities.

It remains the Government's point of departure that, because of the diversity of South African society, it is neither desirable nor practicable to accommodate all communities in the same way. Different structures by no means imply that the right of Black people to take part in democratic processes is not recognised. Nor will the structures set up for them be inferior or less effective.

Against this background the Special Cabinet Committee has negotiated over a wide front with leaders of various communities. Although the Committee's work is by no means done, real progress was made during these discussions with regard to a comprehensive range of matters affecting the lives of the Black communities. It became clear from the negotiations that the improvement of the everyday circumstances of Black communities could be effectively promoted by giving searching attention to attitudes and relations in their daily human contacts. Directives are therefore going to all departments and other government bodies concerned with functions relating to Black people in the socio-economic sphere to submit programmes for the improvement of attitudes in the performance of their functions and for the elimination of problems identified in their respective fields.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

In addition, all government bodies must ensure that Black communities are involved in decision-making that affects them in the socio-economic sphere. This must take place through mechanisms for liaison specially designed for this purpose, through their participation in investigations affecting their position and through their appointment to statutory and other bodies.

Steps to promote orderly urbanisation and to eliminate negative and discriminatory aspects of influx control are also receiving urgent consideration. It is the Government's firm intention that problems relating to the resettlement of communities will be given attention and resolved to the greater satisfaction of all those concerned.

The South African Government accepts that there are large numbers of members of Black population communities from the national states living permanently in South Africa. After thorough investigation it is also accepted that not all these people can express themselves politically beyond the local level via the government structures of the national states. The intensive promotion of the local government system for Black communities and steps to increase the credibility of existing local authorities are vital. It has therefore been decided to treat such communities, for constitutional purposes, as entities which, in their own right, must be granted political participation and a say at higher levels, with retention of the principle that no population group should be placed in a position to rule over another. Structures must therefore be developed for Black communities outside the national states through which they can decide for themselves on their own affairs up to the highest level. The same bodies can serve, at the various levels, as links for co-operation on matters of common interest with government bodies of South Africa, the independent former national states and the self-governing national states.

To avoid unnecessary fragmentation at the constitutional level the Government has further decided that in the longer term, efforts should be made to co-operate on matters of common interest within the same overall framework with the various political entities within the South African context.

The decisions reached regarding the constitutional position of Black communities indicate that clarity must be reached soon on the question of citizenship. For this reason the Special Cabinet Committee has been directed to submit a report and recommendations, to be based on investigation and negotiation, on the problems of terminology and content that surround the question of citizenship.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From the deliberations of the Cabinet Committee it has become clear that communication and mutual trust between the population groups concerned must be improved if peaceful constitutional development is to be successfully pursued. It is necessary, therefore, that the existing mechanisms for negotiation be improved and that the process of negotiation be substantially extended.

I have accordingly decided, after consultation with those concerned, to supplement the activities of the Special Cabinet Committee by establishing an informal, non-statutory forum in which interest groups and representatives of the government bodies concerned will participate on an ad hoc basis and by invitation.

This forum will be chaired by the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning. There will be open discussion on a wide range of constitutional and related matters to improve communication between the Government and Black communities and to create a more favourable basis for negotiations aimed at arriving at mutually acceptable development steps in the constitutional field.

Convincing representations have also been received for Black people who qualify for 99-year leasehold rights to obtain full individual property rights in the areas concerned. We are consequently prepared to negotiate the granting of property rights to Black people in the national states as well as in South Africa itself.

I disclosed many of the above points for the first time today when opening this year's session of our Parliament.

I share your view that our countries should work together to keep open vital channels of communication. I agree that expanded contact between leaders and citizens in all walks of life serves our mutual interest. I am also aware of the need for key American opinion-makers to inform themselves of developments in South Africa at first-hand even though, as occurred recently, their interest in visiting the Republic may not be directed towards promoting our mutual interests.

Practice has shown our willingness to give prominent Americans free access to South Africa conditional upon the observance of certain elementary norms of courtesy. From our side I can give you the assurance that South Africans who visit the United States would not interfere with domestic American concerns. Least of all would they insult the government and people of the United States.

You and I are ad idem concerning South Africa's role in preserving the strategic balance in Africa.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Regarding Mozambique, the problem, as throughout practically the whole of Sub-Saharan Africa, is that there is no homogeneity of population, language or culture. Mozambique is today the victim both of its own colonial past and of the Zimbabwe independence struggle. Thus the origins of the anti-government MNR (RENAMO) faction date back to the Rhodesia/Zimbabwe civil war of the 1970s.

Whatever the position might have been prior to the signing of the Nkomati Accord almost a year ago, my government has rendered no assistance to Renamo since that date. The government of Mozambique accepts that this is the position. As you know, we are attempting to mediate between that government and Renamo.

Foreign Minister Botha recently visited the Presidents of Somalia and the Comoros to discuss with them the suggestion which is often made that help for Renamo emanates from, inter alia, their territories. They denied this. Since then Minister Botha has had further meetings with representatives of the Mozambique government to brief them on his visits and has continued his negotiations with a view to bringing about a cessation of the conflict in Mozambique. President Machel recently sent a message to me by special emissary to thank me for Minister Botha's efforts.

South Africa is in fact making strenuous efforts to bring the two parties in Mozambique together. It is extremely difficult. This prompts me to ask whether the United States government could not become involved to a greater extent than heretofore in the way of economic assistance. There are roads to be built; agricultural implements to be supplied and machines to be maintained; food production to be increased; and the reliability of water supplies to be enhanced.

On Angola we also basically agree. We are now giving urgent attention to the withdrawal of our forces in Angola to the border. However, Mr President, I feel it incumbent on me to sound a note of warning. We have reliable information that SWAPO is poised to launch a major campaign of terror across the border. In such an eventuality you will appreciate that the South African Security Forces will have no option but to take whatever measures are necessary to protect the security of the people of the Territory.

CONFIDENTIAL

I agree that our Foreign Ministers and their staffs should come together frequently in order to concentrate on the matters you identify in your letter with a view to deciding on definite courses of action.

With best wishes for 1985.

Yours sincerely


P W BOTHA

Tuynhuis
Cape Town

25 January 1985

~~"CONFIDENTIAL"~~

The President of the United
States of America
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr President,

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DECLASSIFIED

Authority State Waiver
BY fw NARA DATE 8/26/19

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We are committed to co-operative co-existence, and we believe that ideal can be achieved only if the diversity of our society is recognised and it is accepted that the composition of our country's population need not be an obstacle in our way. But this is possible only within a system in which there is no domination of one population group over another, which in turn requires self-determination for each group over its own affairs and joint responsibility for and co-operation in common interests.

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This/...

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Foreign Minister Botha recently visited the Presidents of Somalia and the Comoros to discuss with them the suggestion which is often made that help for Renamo emanates from, inter alia, their territories. They denied this. Since then Minister Botha has had further meetings with representatives of the Mozambique Government to brief them on his visits and has continued his negotiations with a view to bringing about a cessation of the conflict in Mozambique. President Machel recently sent a message to me by special emissary to thank me for Minister Botha's efforts.

South Africa is in fact making strenuous efforts to bring the two parties in Mozambique together. It is extremely difficult. This prompts me to ask whether the United States Government could not become involved to a greater extent than heretofore in the way of economic assistance. There are roads to be built; agricultural implements to be supplied and machines to be maintained; food production to be increased; and the reliability of water supplies to be enhanced.

On Angola we also basically agree. We are now giving urgent attention to the withdrawal of our forces in Angola to the border. However, Mr President, I feel it incumbent on me to sound a note of warning. We have reliable information that SWAPO is poised to launch a major campaign of terror across the border. In such an

eventuality/...

eventuality you will appreciate that the South African security forces will have no option but to take whatever measures are necessary to protect the security of the people of the territory.

I agree that our Foreign Ministers and their staffs should come together frequently in order to concentrate on the matters you identify in your letter with a view to deciding on definite courses of action.

With best wishes for 1985,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) P.W. Botha"

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

UNCLASSIFIED WITH
~~SECRET~~ ATTACHMENT

0967
Add On

ACTION

February 15, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN POINDEXTER

SIGNED

FROM: PHILLIP RINGDAHL *PR*

SUBJECT: South Africa: Botha's Letter to the President

Per your request, attached at Tab I is a memo to the President transmitting a copy of President Botha's response to the President's letter of January 7.

RECOMMENDATION: Sign and forward your memo at Tab I.

APPROVE

[Signature]

DISAPPROVE

Attachments

Tab I	Your memo to the President
Tab A	Copy of letter from P.W. Botha
Tab II	Background material

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RW
8/26/19

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ID	Document Type	No of pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
	Document Description			
242503	MEMO	2	2/8/1985	B1
PHILLIP RINGDAHL TO ROBERT MCFARLANE RE. SOUTH AFRICA: BOTHA'S LETTER TO RR				

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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242504	MEMO NICHOLAS PLATT TO MCFARLANE RE. BOTHA'S LETTER TO RR	4	2/5/1985	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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PRESS GUIDANCE

January 30, 1985

South Africa

Q: What is the U.S. Government's view of South African State President Botha's speech opening parliament on January 25?

A: South Africa State President Botha's January 25 speech opening parliament is a significant statement of his government's approach to internal reform. We consider it a welcome statement of the government's intent to address these major outstanding issues that must be resolved as South Africa moves away from apartheid. As such, it is our hope that the State President has set the stage for concrete steps that will translate the spirit of this speech into action. Among the points raised in the speech are the need for a mechanism for consultation and negotiation, the reality of permanent black urbanization, the need for higher level political participation by urban blacks, reform of influx control, the right of blacks to own freehold property, and the question of black citizenship. We hope that the emphasis on consultation and mechanisms for dialogue with black leaders can contribute to meaningful negotiations on change toward a system based on the consent of the government. In the months ahead we will follow with intense interest how the ideas in the President's speech are implemented.

NSC/S PROFILE

~~SECRET~~ *RW*

ID 8500973

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TO MCFARLANE FROM LAUX

DOCDATE 05 FEB 85

KEYWORDS: MX

AUSTRALIA

HAWKE, ROBERT

ARMS CONTROL

SUBJECT. MX ISSUE IN AUSTRALIA / CRISIS FOR HAWKE

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

DUE

STATUS S

FILES PA

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

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MCFARLANE

COMMENTS

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The White House

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	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	1	P	
Bob Kimmitt	2	K	
John Poindexter	3	✓	
Paul Thompson			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane			
Bob Kimmitt			
NSC Secretariat	4	985 FEB 90	N
Situation Room			

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cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other

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242507	NOTE LAUX TO MCFARLANE RE. MX ISSUE	1	2/6/1985	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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242505	MEMO DAVID LAUX TO MCFARLANE RE. AUSTRALIA	2	2/5/1985	B1

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242506	PAPER RE. MX	3	ND	B1

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