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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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September 27, 1990

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INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: DAVID C. MILLER, JR.

FROM: ROBERT C. FRASURE *RF*

SUBJECT: Next Steps on South Africa

The de Klerk visit to Washington was an unquestionable success. The meetings here went well. The President's departure statement has been seen as staking out a clear cut, supportive but balanced position on change in South Africa. The Hill sessions were also useful as were the public events. There were no unpleasant incidents or problems and just enough demonstrators in front of the White House so we can see ourselves as robust in inviting de Klerk to come to town. The overall positive tone was reflected in the Washington Post's September 26 editorial (Tab I) and the New York Times September 27 comment (Tab II). As you know well, both of those outfits have given us a lot of grief in the past on South Africa.

We need now to figure out what to do next, otherwise the de Klerk visit will recede in time as an interesting but isolated event of little significance.

Before he left on Tuesday, I discussed some of this with South African Foreign Affairs Director-General Neil van Heerden, who was my main co-conspirator in arranging the visit, and we agreed that it should be useful to look at a more coordinated bilateral dialogue over the next six months on several issues.

In that regard, Neil said they have a fairly precise game plan for the next six months on lifting the State of Emergency in Natal, release of political prisoners, etc. I suggested that we need to coordinate with them because these events will trigger a need for us to move ahead on sanctions with Congress. So we don't want to read about it in the Post. Neil agreed that we should talk and mesh together our political realities, if possible.

Another issue is Angola. We are moving into a highly fluid period involving war, negotiations and a lot of posturing. The South Africans are again supplying lethal support for Savimbi while talking to Luanda. If the Portuguese brokered talks --

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which now have US/USSR monitors -- are to bring this to closure, we are going to need to coordinate with Pretoria vis-a-vis both UNITA and the MPLA.

Neil and I agreed that some systematic travel might be useful over the next several months. One possibility would be that Hank Cohen's senior DAS Jeff Davidow and I might go down to Pretoria in five or six weeks for a couple of days. One added advantage of this approach would be that it would show that we are working closely with State. As you know, there were some bruised feelings over at State at the way we took the lead in cutting the knot on the long-standing de Klerk visit imbroglio. However, Bob Kimmitt has told us he is delighted at the way it all worked out. We understand that Baker's senior people were similarly pleased and impressed by de Klerk.

We would like to have a few minutes of your time to discuss these ideas. In the meantime, we are separately sending up a proposal for a post-visit phone call to Mandela by the President.

Attachments

Tab I Washington Post Editorial Article
Tab II New York Times Editorial Article

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