

REMARKS TO THE PRESS BY SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR BOTHA FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, 8/3/76

Q: Has any decision been made as far as a meeting with Mr. Vorster and the Secretary?

AMBASSADOR BOTHA: No, I wouldn't like to comment on it, really. I gave some comments last time.

Q: You said it was highly unlikely last time. Are you still saying it's highly unlikely?

AMBASSADOR BOTHA: The situation hasn't changed since I put it last time.

Q: Who asked for this meeting with the Secretary? You or him?

AMBASSADOR BOTHA: Well, is that important?

Q: Well, if you requested it, that would mean that you have something new to report following your last meeting with him.

AMBASSADOR BOTHA: The Secretary asked.

Q: The Secretary asked. Did he request any meetings with South African representatives during his upcoming trip?

AMBASSADOR BOTHA: Well, I am a South African representative.

Q: Yes, I know. Is he going to meet your Foreign Minister, Mr. Vorster, again -- any chance of that?

AMBASSADOR BOTHA: The situation is unchanged right now. I can't take it further. I can only say that we are appreciative of the initiatives that were taken by the United States in this very serious matter and we, on principle as has been indicated -- we are on principle to further explore it. But we are realistically alive to the problems and obstacles.

Q: What do you think of the Secretary's speech last night, especially the part concerning your country?

AMBASSADOR BOTHA: No comment on that.

Q: No comment ?

AMBASSADOR BOTHA: No.

Q: Have you heard of a discussion of a creation of a fund to protect the financial interests of white Rhodesians who might have to sell out or have their land --

AMBASSADOR BOTHA: I wouldn't like to go into those matters.