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FILE TITLE: Relations		SERIES: BOTSWANA
		PART: 1
PART BEGINS: 4 March 98 2 May 1997	PART ENDS: 29 June March 2001	CAB ONE:

**LABOUR
ADMINISTRATION**

Part 1 of 2

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PART

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DATE CLOSED

7 JUNE 2001

Series : **BOTSWANA**

File Title : **Relations**

Part : **1**

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by e-mail

From: Chris Austin
Private Secretary

Date: 29 March 2001

f
Faxed

cc. PS/PUSS*
PS/Sir John Vereker*
Barrie Ireton*
Graham Stegmann*
Owen Barder*
Julian Lob-Levyt*
Mark Lyall Grant, FCO
~~Anna Wechsberg, No.10~~
John Wilde,
HC Gaborone
Richard Calvert*
Special Advisers*

*cc: JS 05
Pm*

Sam Sharpe, DFIDSA

CALL ON PRESIDENT MOGAE OF BOTSWANA, 28 MARCH

Thank you for your minute of 26 March. The Secretary of State duly called on President Mogae at his London Hotel for about 30 minutes on 28 March. The President was accompanied by the Minister for Mines, the Botswana High Commissioner to London and three others. Graham Stegmann and I were also present. Discussion focused on diamonds and HIV/AIDS, but also touched briefly on the Africa Partnership Proposals.

2. As expected, President Mogae explained that his visit to London was to promote his "Diamonds for Development" campaign. The objective was to counter the criticism of the diamond industry made by some NGOs because of its association in other countries with illegal trade and conflict. In a brief aside about Sierra Leone, the President observed that the issues there were political rather than technical, although he acknowledged it would be difficult to regulate the industry even if the country were secure because of the nature of alluvial diamonds.

3. On HIV/AIDS, the President recalled his statement to the Millennium Assembly last year. The pandemic was having a major set back on human development in Botswana. In response, the Government had embarked on a campaign to provide information and counselling with which the President was personally involved. The Government was also implementing a programme to prevent mother-to-child transmission, including using anti-retroviral drugs. This was benefiting from US assistance through the provision of pre-fab labs. Four treatment centres had been set up so far, and a further 14 were planned by the end of the year. The Government was also acting to treat opportunistic infections such as STDs, TB, and pneumonia.

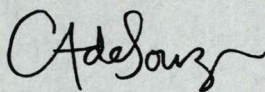
4. The President hoped that there would be a decline in infection rates over the next two years, observing that a plateau seemed to have been reached in Gaborone and Francistown. He added that the Government was negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to obtain anti-retroviral drugs at a more affordable price. The original discount had still left the price too high, but further reductions were being offered. He also mentioned one US company (MAG?) which had offered 5 years of free drugs, as a pilot project. This had not begun yet, because there were major logistical issues to overcome in terms of upgrading the primary health system. All of these efforts were imposing a large cost on the Government, which is why they were so anxious to ensure a continued flow of revenue from diamonds.

5. The Secretary of State commended the President's personal leadership in this area, and described our involvement in HIV/AIDS through SADC. However, we had been disappointed by slow pace of progress. What did the President think of the recent reforms in SADC? President Mogae was optimistic that centralising responsibility in the Secretariat in Gaborone would improve matters, although this would take some time to come to fruition. He noted that Botswana would host a regional meeting of Ministers of Health next week.

6. The Secretary of State raised the Africa Partnership proposals, noting that the Prime Minister was very keen to be a strong partner. President Mogae said that Botswana saw itself very much as part of the Partnership, and he hoped other African countries would demonstrate the required commitment to democratic and economic reforms. He was clear that the Partnership required African countries to get their houses in order first, in return for increased levels of aid and increased trade access.

Comment

7. This was a pleasant exchange, but not particularly substantive. However, President Mogae was clearly well up to speed on the Africa Partnership proposals and articulate about what was required on the African side.



for Chris Austin
Private Secretary

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COS
FA/PS
FA/PS (MT)
AC/Press

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

22 October 1999

London SW1A 2AH

file - hold FCO to
issue.

PRB
25/10

Dean Philip

Botswana: Message to President Mogae

In elections held on 16 October, President Mogae was re-elected as President of Botswana. Since independence in 1966, there have been genuinely free and fair elections every five years. A short message from the Prime Minister would be appropriate and also much appreciated by Mogae.

Botswana is an African success story, in terms of political and economic stability. Botswana takes its membership of the Commonwealth, and CMAG, seriously.

Her Majesty The Queen has sent a message to President Mogae in his capacity as Head of State. At CHOGM in November, President Mogae will have an Audience with Her Majesty The Queen.

... I enclose a draft message for delivery by the High Commission.

Yours ever

Andrew Patrick

(Andrew Patrick)
Private Secretary

Philip Barton Esq OBE
10 Downing Street

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SKP 22/10/99

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D R A F T

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FM FCO

TO IMMEDIATE GABORONE

TELNO

OF ..1000Z OCTOBER 99

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA: MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT MOGAE

1. Please pass the following personal message from the Prime Minister to President Mogae. There will be no (no) signed original.

Begins

"Many congratulations on your re-election as President. I send you my best wishes for your term as President and look forward to building on the warm relationship that exists between our two countries and peoples."

Ends

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MAIN

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AD(S)

DIRECTOR AFRICA

PS

PS/MR HAIN

PS/PUS

DUS TRADE NE

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AFRG

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

SUBJECT
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AWA

8 May 1998

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Prime Minister, **Filed on:**

I am writing in response to former President Masire's letter of 30 March to the G8 Presidency, on behalf of the Global Coalition for Africa. I was glad to receive the GCA's ideas and am replying to you as one of the six GCA Co-Chairpersons.

Following the Lyon and Denver Summits, Africa remains very much on the agenda for the G8 Birmingham Summit. Our aim is to make this year's Summit simpler and more productive and G8 discussions more relevant to G8 citizens and to the wider world.

The G8 will discuss the impact of the Asian financial crisis on developing and emerging countries and the lessons, both political and economic, which we should draw from the crisis. We will also examine wider development issues and particularly the need to help stimulate faster growth in Africa and make progress in relieving the debt burden of the poorest countries, especially in Africa. The G8 recognises the steps many African countries have taken to strengthen democratic institutions and pursue sound economic policies.

I shall make sure that your ideas are circulated to G8 partners.

Yours sincerely,

HE Ato Meles Zenawi

Tony Blair



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**SUBJECT
MASTER**

Filed on:

THE STATE PRESIDENT

GABORONE

REF: PPO 16/24 XIII (63)

30 March 1998

The Right Honourable Prime Minister,

I have the pleasure to write on behalf of the Co-Chairpersons of the Global Coalition for Africa as you prepare for the 1998 G-8 Summit in Birmingham. As will be recalled, I also wrote last year on behalf of the GCA Co-Chairpersons on the eve of the Denver Summit, and we welcome the commitment to supporting Africa's development which was expressed at Denver. The issues which I raised last year continue to require the attention of both African countries and their development partners, and remain relevant today: decisive action on debt, private sector development, enhanced trade and investment, and reduction of poverty.

During the past one year, the GCA itself has focused on a number of the issues which were raised at the Denver Summit. In our meetings we have discussed, and arrived at consensus on the ongoing process of political transition in African countries, the need to integrate Africa more fully in the global trading system and the creation of an enabling environment for investment in African countries. In the GCA's 1997 Policy Forum, the problem of corruption and its highly negative effect on development was thoroughly debated. The nature of the discussions, as well as the topics of focus, underscore the fact that that more and more African countries have assumed responsibility for their own progress.

An increasing number of African countries are implementing political and economic reforms. Multi-party elections are now the norm throughout much of the continent, and there has been a significant degree of political liberalization in the majority of countries.

Those countries which have been pursuing sound macroeconomic policies for some time are now beginning to see results in terms of annual economic growth rates of over five per cent. A number have achieved growth rates closer to ten percent.

Within the GCA and on other occasions, African leaders have identified their priorities for Africa's development. These priorities include reduction of debt, promotion of trade and investment, the expansion of infrastructure, regional integration and capacity building. African countries are prepared to take the lead role in implementing appropriate measures and policies to translate these priorities into manageable and effective development programmes, but they need the support of their partners.

In this context, the evolving perspectives on development assistance are welcome. The recent emphasis on trade and investment and on Africa's integration into the global economy is important and should be maintained. At the same time, however, we believe that substantial levels of official development assistance will continue to be needed in the foreseeable future, and urge members of the G-8 to commit themselves to its provision.

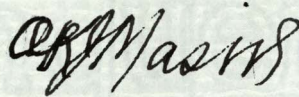
We also appeal to the members of the G-8 to pay urgent attention to the continued problem of debt. We consider recent initiatives, including that launched by the World Bank and the IMF, to be constructive steps. However, implementation of these initiatives to date strongly confirms that bolder measures are required if the debt burdens of African countries are to be substantially reduced. We, therefore, urge members of the G-8 to support measures which go beyond the HIPC initiative, particularly in terms of eligibility criteria and the flexibility of processes to be followed. Early and decisive action is required to ensure that the stock of debt is reduced to sustainable levels in a much greater number of African countries in as short a time as possible.

We believe that this, coupled with the sound macroeconomic policies they are continuing to implement, will lay the basis for durable economic growth in an increasing number of African countries, and enable them to make real progress in reducing the poverty which currently afflicts them.

I and my fellow Co-Chairpersons of the Global Coalition for Africa are convinced that you will give these and other issues of importance to Africa's development, due consideration in Birmingham. We look forward to enhanced collaboration between African countries and their development partners as a result of your deliberations.

I thank you once again for your commitment to Africa.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem.



Q. K. J. MASIRE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
AND CO-CHAIRPERSON OF THE
GLOBAL COALITION FOR AFRICA

The Right Honourable Tony Blair
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing Street
LONDON



TOP: PB
CC: JETH
✓ MC

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

4 March 1998

file - told FCO to issue

London SW1A 2AH
Telephone: 0171

PAB
5/3

Dear Philip,

Botswana: Message to President Mogae (Designate)

Vice President Mogae takes over from President Masire on 1 April. A peaceful handover of power from a retiring President is still something of a rarity in black Africa and a process we want to encourage. A short message from the Prime Minister would be appropriate and also much appreciated by Mogae.

... I enclose a draft message for delivery by the High Commission on 1 April.

yours ever,
Dominick

(Dominick Chilcott)
Private Secretary

Philip Barton Esq OBE
10 Downing Street

UNCLASSIFIED
FM FCO
TO IMMEDIATE GABORONE
TELNO
OF **1000Z MARCH 98

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT MOGAE (DESIGNATE)

1. Please pass the following personal message from the Prime Minister to President Mogae. There will be no (no) signed original.

Begins

"As you assume the leadership of Botswana, I send you my congratulations and best wishes for your term as President. I look forward to building on the excellent relationship between our two countries."

Ends

COOK

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MAIN
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DIRECTOR AFRICA
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