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cc: PM T

New Zealand.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 June 1981

Dear Roderic

SPRINGBOK TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND

Thank you for your letter of 18 June which the Prime Minister saw before dining with Mr. Muldoon last night.

Mr. Muldoon did raise the question of the rugby tour in the course of conversation at dinner. He told the Prime Minister that he would not refuse visas to the Springbok team. The Prime Minister, as you suggested, expressed sympathy with Mr. Muldoon's difficulty. She went on to say that she agreed with him that to refuse visas would be wrong.

I am copying this letter to Peter Jenkins (HM Treasury).

Yours ever

Nahaul Alexander

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

Ramphal

18 June 1981

Dear Michael,

Possible Effect of Springbok Tour of New Zealand
on Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Meeting

/ I enclose a record of a telephone conversation
this morning between the Commonwealth Secretary-
General and Mr Hurd. The Prime Minister may wish to
see this before her dinner for Mr Muldoon this
/ evening. I also enclose the text of the statement
(referred to by Mr Ramphal) issued by African
Commonwealth Foreign Ministers in Nairobi.

The position of the New Zealand Government in
relation to sporting contacts with South Africa is
very much the same as ours. In pursuance of their
obligations under the Gleneagles Agreement, they have
sought to dissuade the New Zealand Rugby authorities
from going through with their invitation to the
Springbok team to tour New Zealand; but Mr Muldoon
has declined to take governmental action to prevent
the tour, eg by refusing visas. We therefore
suggest that, in conversation with Mr Muldoon, the
Prime Minister should express sympathy with him in
his problem and go on to say that it would be un-
fortunate if the tour were to have repercussions on
the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' meeting or for
next year's Commonwealth Games in Australia; was
there any hope that the tour might yet be cancelled
by the organisers, perhaps in response to public as
well as governmental pressure? We ourselves would
of course greatly regret it if as a result of
Commonwealth pressures the Finance Ministers' Meeting
were to be switched from Auckland; and we hoped
that such a situation would not arise.

Mr Ramphal will be calling on Mr Muldoon
tomorrow afternoon.

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I am copying this letter to Peter Jenkins
(Treasury).

yours etc
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

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Mr Barltrop, CCD

cc: ✓/PS
 PS/LPS
 PS/Mr Luce
 Sir L Allinson
 Mr Donald
 SPD
 WAD
 SAfD

MR MULDOON'S DINNER WITH THE PRIME MINISTER: COMMONWEALTH
 OPPOSITION TO THE SPRINGBOK TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND

We spoke. Mr Sonny Ramphal, Commonwealth Secretary-General, telephoned Mr Hurd this morning to say that he understood that the Prime Minister would be seeing Mr Muldoon tonight (at dinner) and that he wanted us to be aware of the growing Commonwealth moves against the Springbok tour of New Zealand this summer. At a meeting of the Southern Africa Committee ten days ago, the Nigerians had made it known that they were seeking a review of the question of attendance at the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Meeting in New Zealand this September should the Springbok tour go ahead. This move had now been taken further by the African Foreign Ministers at the OAU Conference in Nairobi, where they had just stated that they would press for a change of venue for the Meeting if the tour went ahead. Caribbean Commonwealth countries were now consulting on the matter, and the Indian Government had sent a message that they would not go to New Zealand if the tour went ahead. The aim in all this was to head off the tour, not to disrupt the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Meeting. Mr Muldoon was seeking to introduce a resolution in Parliament which would urge support for the Gleneagles Agreement and discourage the tour, but at the same time make it clear that in the last resort the Government would not refuse to issue visas. Moreover, the issue had become bound up in the New Zealand election campaign, and other New Zealand Ministers were quietly, and in one case openly, saying that the Government was ready to let the tour go ahead.

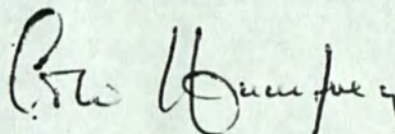
2. Mr Ramphal said that, given this background of growing Commonwealth opposition and the risk to the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Meeting, he hoped very much that Mr Muldoon would not leave Downing Street this evening, after seeing the Prime Minister, in a position to say that he had the Prime Minister's support for his stand. If this happened, Britain, which had not been directly concerned up till now, would become isolated along with New Zealand in the Commonwealth on the issue. Mr Ramphal wanted to avoid such a division. He noted that the Australians, for

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example, had taken a firm stand, saying that they would refuse visas for the Springbok team if they tried to transit Australia on their way to New Zealand.

3. Mr Hurd took note of Mr Ramphal's last point and agreed to consider the matter, while at the same time pointing out that some criticisms of the New Zealand Government had been unfair since they had been making efforts to discourage the tour.

4. Mr Hurd would be grateful if you would arrange for No 10 to be advised urgently about this approach from Mr Ramphal and about the line which we suggest the Prime Minister may wish to take with Mr Muldoon. You may like to know that Mr Ramphal has apparently arranged to see Mr Muldoon tomorrow.



C T W Humfrey
PS/Mr Hurd

18 June 1981