Wilson Center | Digital Archive
International History Declassified
digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org

# June 11, 1981
# Letter from US President Reagan to South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha

## Citation:

"Letter from US President Reagan to South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha", June 11, 1981, Wilson Center Digital Archive, South African Foreign Affairs Archive, File 1/33/3, vol. 77, USA Relations with RSA. Obtained and contributed by Or Rabinowitz. https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/116766

## Summary:

Reagan writes to South African Prime Minister R. F. "Pik" Botha regarding his meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information, Pieter W. Botha (no relation). Reagan expresses hope that relations between the two countries will be more cooperative in the future, and states that although the Nambia issue has complicated that relationship, it "can also be an opportunity to help stem the growth of Soviet influence in the region."

## Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY)

## Original Language:

English

## Contents:

Original Scan

Wilson Center Digital Archive

Original Scan

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 11, 1981

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Thank you for your personal message of May 12 delivered to me on the occasion of the visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information Botha to Washington. I feel that the Minister's visit was most productive. Our meetings were an important first step toward improving communication and dispelling some of the misunderstandings that have at times distorted relations between our two countries.

We are ready to work with you to develop a new, constructive relationship between the United States and South Africa solidly based on shared concerns, interests, and objectives.

As we said to Foreign Minister Botha, the problem of Namibia, which complicates our relations with European allies and with our friends in black Africa, is an obstacle to the development of a new relationship with South Africa. But given our shared concerns for the security of southern Africa, a settlement of the Namibia problem can also be an opportunity to help stem the growth of Soviet influence in the region. I am encouraged that our two governments have already begun to work to seek a settlement that will be responsive to our shared interests.

Please accept my congratulations on your April 29 election victory. With this clear mandate you will now be able to proceed with implementation of your vision of a South Africa changed, modern, and strong, with bright prospects for stability and development rooted in justice, and responsive to the needs of all South Africans. We recognize

fully that developments in your country hold the key to long-term stability, development, and peace in the region. We are prepared to work with you in pursuing these shared objectives.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

His Excellency
Pieter Willem Botha
Prime Minister of the Republic of South Africa
Pretoria