SECRET

1. ON THE BASIS OF PRELIMINARY INTELLIGENCE, WE HAVE TENTA-
TIVELY CONCLUDED THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS PROBABLY PREPARING
A NUCLEAR TEST SITE IN THE DESERT AND THUS THAT THEIR
NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM MAY BE SOMEWHAT FURTHER ALONG
THAN PREVIOUSLY REALIZED. ON AN URGENT BASIS WE ARE
PROCEEDING TO UPDATE THESE ASSESSMENTS AND EXPECT A BETTER
PICTURE OF THE STATE OF AFFAIRS BY TOMORROW OR SATURDAY.

2. YOU WILL KNOW BEST WHETHER TO MENTION THIS DEVELOPMENT
TO BOTHIA UNDER ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. CABLES ON OUR EARLIER APPROACH TO SAG IN PRETORIA ON
SECRET

SECRET

THE SAME SUBJECT AND THE SAG REPLY HAVE BEEN REPEATED TO
YOU. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET
SECRET

REFERENCE: STATE 109653

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PAGE 02 STATE 109653

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SECRET

NNN
Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES, NUCLEAR TESTS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE
08/12/77
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date: 
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PTARNOFF:BABS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840072-1167
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770867/aaaacecs.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 STATE 189626
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1615933
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR POTENTIAL
TAGS: MNUC, PINR, SF, US
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declasified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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