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PAGE 01  STATE  190653 TOSEC 080314
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DRAFTED BY S/S:PTARNOFF:BABS
APPROVED BY D - MR. CHRISTOPHER
INR - MR. KIRK (DRAFT)

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SECRET STATE 190653 TOSEC 080314

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CHEROKEE, FOR THE SECRETARY FROM WARREN CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF, US

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR POTENTIAL

REF: STATE 189626

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 BOTH A UNDER ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. CABLES ON OUR EARLIER APPROACH TO SAG IN PRETORIA ON
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THE SAME SUBJECT AND THE SAG REPLY HAVE BEEN REPEATED TO
YOU. CHRISTOPHER

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APPROVED BY S/S: PTARNOFF
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TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

SECRET STATE 109653

NODIS
CHEROKEE ONLY FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 109653 ACTION SECRETARY AUG 12.

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 190653 TOSEC 080314

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