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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A001 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7487

SECRET

E O. 11652: XGDS-1/2/3
TAGS: PARM, SF
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 197389, (B) PRETORIA 4211

1. GIST OF SOUTH AFRICAN REACTION TO OUR DEMARCHE
(REFTEL B) AND TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO SOUTH
AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER (PARA 2, REFTEL A) WERE PRO-
VIDED TO FCO AUGUST 19 IN MEETING INVOLVING JOHNNY
GRAHAM, MARTIN REID OF FCO CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
DESK AND JOHN EDMONDS OF FCO ARMS CONTROL DEPARTMENT.

2. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION WE WERE TOLD THAT SCOTT, UK
AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA, WILL NOT PRESENT UK LETTER
UNTIL AUGUST 22. HIS INSTRUCTIONS ARE BEING DRAFTED,
AND WE WERE TOLD THAT THEY WILL EMPHASIZE THE SERIOUS-
NESS OF THE MATTER QUALIFIED TO THE EXTENT OF STATING
"IF THE REPORTS ARE TRUE." BRITISH DO NOT PLAN TO REFER
TO EVIDENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM AND
WILL HEW TO THE "IF TRUE" VEIN, SINCE THE UK DOES NOT
ITSELF POSSESS EVIDENCE. MOREOVER, SCOTT WILL BE
INSTRUCTED TO URGE SOUTH AFRICAN ACCESSION TO THE NPT.
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3. BRITISH HAVE ASKED US IF SCOTT COULD REFER TO
KNOWLEDGE OF THE BOWDLER-BOTHA EXCHANGE AND WE SAID WE
WOULD SEEK GUIDANCE IN TIME FOR THE BRITISH TO TAKE IT
INTO ACCOUNT IN PREPARING THE INSTRUCTIONS TO SCOTT.
TO MEET THIS REQUEST, WE WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS
FOR USE AUGUST 20.
4. BRITISH, MOREOVER, WOULD LIKE IF POSSIBLE TO HAVE
MORE INFORMATION ON US DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRENCH ON
THIS MATTER, AND DETAILS ON WHAT THE FRENCH HAVE SAID TO
THE SOUTH AFRICANS. ADDITIONALLY, THEY WOULD WELCOME
INFORMATION WE CAN PROVIDE ON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRG.

STREATOR

SECRET

NNN