

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PRETOR 04238 201033Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----117497 201038Z /15
O 201013Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8499

S E C R E T PRETORIA 4238

NODIS CHEROKEE

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

REF: STATE 198014,

1. I SAW BRAND FOURIE AT 10:00 AND MADE THE POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL.
2. HE SAID HE COULD NOT GET THROUGH TO VORSTER AND BOTHA UNTIL AFTER THE CAUCUS MORNING SESSION IN CAPE TOWN, BUT WOULD BE SURE TO DO SO THEN. HE WAS NOT CERTAIN HOW FAST HE COULD GET ME AN ANSWER. THERE ARE POLICY QUESTIONS INVOLVED, HE NOTED, AND DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE THE PM TO TOUCH THE NECESSARY BASES. LOOKING OVER THE THREE AFFIRMATIONS REQUESTED, HE EXPRESSED A PERSONAL OPINION THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THEM COULD BE MADE WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. HE REGRETTED THAT THIS MATTER HAD COME UP OVER A WEEKEND WHEN ALL THE PRINCIPAL POLICY MAKERS WERE OUT OF TOWN CONCENTRATING ON ANOTHER ISSUE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA. HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM WE FACE AT LAGOS AND THE UN AND WANTS TO BE HELPFUL.
3. FOURIE EXPRESSED NO WILLINGNESS TO INVITE AN ON-SITE INSPECTION OF THE KALAHARI SITE. DURING OUR BRIEF CON-

SECRET

PAGE 02 PRETOR 04238 201033Z

VERSATION HE AGAIN NOTED THAT THIS WAS A SECRET MILITARY INSTALLATION REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF MILITARY AUTHORITIES. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT "OUR MILITARY NO MORE WANTS FOREIGNERS PRYING AROUND THEIR SECRET INSTALLATION THAN YOURS DO."

4. SPEAKING OF THE LONGER TERM PICTURE, FOURIE EXPRESSED

CONCERN THAT US-SA NUCLEAR COOPERATION HAD FALLEN OFF DURING THE PAST 3-4 YEARS. IF THIS COOPERATION HAD REMAINED HIGH, HE OBSERVED, THE PRESENT MISUNDERSTANDING MIGHT NOT HAVE ARISEN. PREFACING HIS NEXT REMARKS WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING BARGAINING OR HORSETRADING, HE SAID THAT IT WOULD HELP A GREAT DEAL IF THE US AND SA COULD DISCUSS SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR FUEL REQUIREMENTS AND REACH SOME KIND OF AN UNDERSTANDING. AS LONG AS YOU TRY TO CUT US OFF, HE ADDED, YOU MUST EXPECT THAT WE WILL SEARCH FOR OTHER WAYS TO SATISFY OUR NEEDS.

5. FOURIE AND I HAVE COORDINATED OUR WEEKEND PROGRAMS SO THAT WE CAN EXPEDITE SENDING RESPONSE AS SOON AS RECEIVED FROM CAPE TOWN.

6. DEPT PASS TO BONN, LONDON AND PARIS AS APPROPRIATE.
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 08/20/77, NUCLEAR TESTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INSPECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR04238
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770841/aaaabigt.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 2abe8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 STATE 198014
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-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: 1540747
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM
TAGS: PARM, MNUC, SF, US, (FOURIE, BRAND)
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2abe8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/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