

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 14137 291814Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----101962 291816Z /43  
O 291759Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1002

S E C R E T BONN 14137

NODIS

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

REFS: (A) BONN 13580; (B) STATE 195279

1. THE CHANCELLERY HAS REQUESTED COMMENTS FROM THE USG CONCERNING THE WASHINGTON POST AND NEW YORK TIMES STORIES CONCERNING EFFORTS TO FORESTALL A SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TEST. HAUBER OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE ARMS CONTROL DIVISION, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S MEETINGS WITH VAN WELL ON THIS SUBJECT, TOLD US HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE CHANCELLERY TO REQUEST CLARIFICATION ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE AMBASSADOR ON AUGUST 18 (BASED ON REFFTEL B) THAT "OUR INFORMATION DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT AN ACTUAL TEST IS IMMINENT" AND THE STATEMENT BY DAVID BINDER IN THE NEW YORK TIMES THAT "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS CONVINCED THAT IT HEADED OFF THE IMMINENT DETONATION OF AN ATOMIC DEVICE...."

B. THE INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE CAUTIOUS  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 14137 291814Z

LANGUAGE IN THE AMBASSADOR'S AUGUST 18 APPROACH ("A FACILITY WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE MANY OF THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF AN UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TEST SITE") AND THE IMPLICATIONS IN THE PRESS THAT THE SITE WAS DEFINITELY FOR UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS.

C. REPORTS WHICH THE CHANCELLERY HAD SEEN TO THE

EFFECT THAT THE USG HAD SHOWN FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS US SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE TEST SITE. (HAUBER HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT SUCH REPORTS HAD BEEN IN THE PRESS, BUT HE WAS UNABLE TO STATE DEFINITELY TO WHAT REPORTS THE CHANCELLERY WAS REFERRING.)

2. HAUBER SUMMARIZED THAT THE FRG WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING (A) INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THE USG IS CERTAIN THAT THE SITE WAS DEFINITELY FOR UNDERGROUND TESTS; (B) AN OFFICIAL READING FROM THE USG ON HOW IMMINENT THE TEST REALLY WAS; AND (C) USG COMMENTS ON THE REPORTS MENTIONED IN 1.C., ABOVE, CONCERNING THE SHARING OF US SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHY WITH THE GOF.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR RESPONDING TO THE FRG REQUEST.  
MEEHAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR TESTS, CAT-A  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 29-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:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BONN14137  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DC IS ALSO X2-3  
**Executive Order:** X3  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** P840086-0557  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BONN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770814/aaaaalgr.tel  
**Line Count:** 79  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 500b5851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** 77 BONN 13580, 77 STATE 195279  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05-Apr-2005 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:** 1454888  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN WEAPONS PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** PARM, MNUC, GE, SF, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/500b5851-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