SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 14137 291814Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A001 W
------------------101962 291816Z /43
O 291759Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1002
SECRET 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 REFTEL 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 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
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