

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 14357 011708Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----023692 011709Z /41
P 011653Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1089

S E C R E T BONN 14357

NODIS

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

REF: (A) STATE 208136 DTG 311630Z AUG 77
(B) PRETORIA 4492 DTG 301628Z AUG 77
(C) BONN 14137 DTG 291759Z AUG 77
(D) STATE 200248 DTG 230318Z AUG 77
(E) BONN 13059 DTG 122202Z AUG 77

1. ON SEPTEMBER 1 EMBOFF CONVEYED RESPONSES CONTAINED REF A (EXCEPT SECOND SENTENCE PARA 2) TO HAUBER OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE ARMS CONTROL DIVISION. HAUBER TOOK CAREFUL NOTE AND SAID HE WOULD PASS THE RESPONSES TO FONOFF STATE SECRETARY VAN WELL AND TO FEDERAL CANCELLERY.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, HAUBER SPECULATED ON MEANING OF ENGLISH WORD "IMMINENT" (PARA 1, REF A), SUGGESTING THAT IT MEANS "LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY OR WITHIN A FEW DAYS". HE ASKED FOR OPINION OF EMBOFF, WHO DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON THE TIME FRAME TO WHICH "IMMINENT" IN PARA 1 OF REF A MIGHT REFER. HAUBER SEEMED TO BE SUGGESTING THAT USG'S USE
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OF "IMMINENT" DID NOT PRECLUDE THAT THE TEST MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. IN THIS CONTEXT, HAUBER READ EMBOFF PORTIONS OF NON-PAPER LEFT WITH FRG ON AUGUST 9 BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER SAG NUCLEAR PROGRAM (REF E). IT REFERRED TO SITE AS BEING DEFINITELY FOR NUCLEAR TESTS, AND TO TEST AS SOMETHING WHICH COULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN A VERY

SHORT TIME FRAME.

3. HAUBER SAID FRG INTENDED TO REPLY FAIRLY SOON TO FALIN'S DEMARCHE. CONTENT WOULD BE ALONG THE LINES DISCUSSED WITH DEPARTMENT BY FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. REPLY WOULD PROBABLY BE ORAL, MADE TO FALIN IN BONN, AND ACCOMPANIED BY A NON-PAPER TO BE LEFT WITH FALIN.

4. HAUBER MENTIONED THAT, ON FONOFF INSTRUCTIONS, FRG AMBASSADOR IN PRETORIA HAD JUST MADE ANOTHER DEMARCHE TO SAG EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER RECENT COMMENTS OF SAG FINANCE MINISTER HORWOOD TO EFFECT THAT SOUTH AFRICA RESERVED RIGHT TO USE NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR OTHER THAN PEACEFUL PURPOSES (REF B). HAUBER SAID FRG AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN ASSURED BY SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BRAND FOURIE THAT FINANCE MINISTER'S STATEMENTS WERE OUT OF LINE AND THAT SAG STOOD BY ITS ASSURANCES TO THE US (REF D). AS PART OF SAME DEMARCHE, FRG AMB S OR, SPEAKING IN NAME OF GENSCHER, AGAIN URGED SAG TO ADHERE TO NPT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR TESTS, NUCLEAR TEST SITES, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Sep-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: 1977BONN14357
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DC IS ALSO X1 AND X2
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840084-1435
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197709110/aaaadogf.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0146aa3a-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 STATE 208136, 77 PRETORIA 4492, 77 BONN 14137, 77 STATE 200248, 77 BONN 13059
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-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: 1094450
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN WEAPONS PROGRAM: FRG INQUIRIES
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, GE, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0146aa3a-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