

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 278942
ORIGIN OES-09

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-06 IO-14 DOE-17 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SIG-03 MMO-01 /143 R

DRAFTED BY OES:TRPICKERING:RRS
APPROVED BY D:WCHRISTOPHER
AF:RMOOSE

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O 260019Z OCT 79 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 278942

FOR AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE

E.O. 12065 RDS-3 (10/25/89)

TAGS: MNUC, PARM, ALLDP

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON SUSPECTED NUCLEAR EVENT

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT

2. US NEWS SOURCES REPORTED EVENING OCTOBER 25 THAT
US HAS EVIDENCE OF LOW-YIELD TEST OVER A MONTH AGO
OF NUCLEAR DEVICE IN REGION THAT POINTS TO SOUTH AFRICA.
PRESS SOURCES INDICATE NO CONFIRMING INFORMATION HAS
BEEN OBTAINED, US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE CALLED
EVIDENCE AMBIGUOUS.

3. EVENING OCT 25 DEPT OF STATE ISSUED FOLLOWING
STATEMENT. BEGIN TEXT: THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS AN
INDICATION SUGGESTING THE POSSIBILITY THAT A LOW-YIELD
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NUCLEAR EXPLOSION OCCURRED ON SEPTEMBER 22 IN AN AREA OF
THE INDIAN OCEAN AND SOUTH ATLANTIC INCLUDING PORTIONS
OF THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT AND THE SOUTHERN PART OF
AFRICA. NO CORROBORATING EVIDENCE HAS BEEN RECEIVED
TO DATE. WE ARE CONTINUING TO ASSESS WHETHER SUCH AN
EVENT TOOK PLACE. END TEXT.

4. WHERE IN THE OPINION OF THE AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE IT
WOULD BE USEFUL TO INFORM APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF
FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, YOU MAY DRAW ON ABOVE STATEMENT

TO DO SO. IN ADDITION, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT
EVIDENCE REMAINS AMBIGUOUS AND US GOVERNMENT CONTINUES
TO ASSESS WHETHER EVENT HAS TAKEN PLACE. US WISHES TO
AVOID CONTRIBUTING TO SENSE OF CRISIS OVER THIS ISSUE.
US GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO ASSESS THE ORIGIN OF
ANY EVENT THAT MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE NOR HAS IT INDEED
BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THE EVENT ITSELF. WE CONTINUE
URGENTLY TO SEEK INFORMATION AND WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR
ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH GOVERNMENTS WOULD WISH
TO PASS ON TO US.

5. FYI. US PRESS ALSO CURRENTLY RUNNING SOUTH AFRICAN
EMBASSY WASHINGTON COMMENT THAT STORY IS PURE SPECULATION,
SOUTH ARICA HAS STATED THAT IT HAS NO INTENTION OF
EXPLODING A NUCLEAR DEVICE, BUT ADMITTED IT HAD A
PROGRAM FOR ENRICHING URANIUM. END FYI.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLEGATIONS, PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, TEXTS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 oct 1979
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: Released in Full
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: 200202525
Disposition Comment: RECORDING OF CLASSIFICATION/RECLASSIFICATION ACTION IN SAS (STATE ARCHIVING SYSTEM) BY THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITY FOR THIS ACTION, WHO HAS APPROVED RECLASSIFICATION AND OR EXTENSION ACTION ON THIS DOCUMENT.
Disposition Date: 10 jul 2007
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: Released in Full by HARMON KIRBY on 10-JUL-07 ;
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1979STATE278942
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TRPICKERING:RRS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: R3 19991026 CHRISTOPHER, WARREN
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D790490-0457
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1979/newtext/t19791023/aaaaaskc.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 37fbf236-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 mar 2006
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: 1026239
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUIDANCE ON SUSPECTED NUCLEAR EVENT
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, XX, SF, US, XO, XQ
To: ALL POSTS
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/37fbf236-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014