

## 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

-----043347 260052Z /64

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.  
VANCE

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NNN

## 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  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1979/newtext/t19791023/aaaaaskc.tel  
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**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**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  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**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  
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**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