

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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PAGE 02 STATE 278942

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

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Concepts: ALLEGATIONS, PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, TEXTS, PRESS RELEASES
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Draft Date: 26 oct 1979
DecapTION Date: 01 jan 1960
DecapTION Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: MNUC, PARM, XX, SF, US, XO, XQ
To: ALL POSTS
Type: TE
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