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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23882

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 2, 3
TAGS: PARM MNUC FR SF
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TEST

REF: (A) PARIS 23833; (B) PARIS 23834

1. SOUTOU CALLED ME OVER TO THE QUAI TO GIVE ME THE
TEXT OF THE INSTRUCTIONS BEING SENT TODAY TO THEIR
AMBASSADOR IN PRETORIA. THE TEXT OF THIS MESSAGE
FOLLOWS WITH INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION:

"PROJET DE COMMUNICATION POUR NOTRE
AMBASSADEUR EN AFRIQUE DU SUD

A LA SUITE DES INFORMATIONS PUBLIEES PAR
L'AGENCE TASS, LE GOUVERNEMENT FRANCAIS, DANS UNE
DECLARATION PUBLIQUE EN DATE DU 10 AOUT, A MARQUE SANS
AMBIGUITE QU'IL CONDAMNERAIT TOUTE INITIATIVE DE
L'AFRIQUE DU SUD POUR SE Doter D'UNE CAPACITE
NUCLEAIRE EXPLOSIVE. DEPUIS, LE GOUVERNEMENT DES
ETATS-UNIS LUI A FOURNI DES ELEMENTS D'APPRECIATION QUI
ACCROISSENT SON APPREHENSION ET LE CONDUISENT A FAIRE

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PART AU GOUVERNEMENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE SUD-AFRICAIN DE
SA TRES VIVE PREOCCUPATION.

J'AI RECU INSTRUCTION DE VOUS FAIR SAVOIR QUE
LE GOUVERNEMENT FRANCAIS ESTIME INDISPENSABLE QUE LE
GOUVERNEMENT SUD-AFRICAIN FASSE LA PREUVE, SANS
EQUIVOQUE POSSIBLE, QU'IL NE CHERCHE PAS A SE Doter
DES MOYENS DE PROCEDER A DES EXPLOSIONS NUCLEAIRES.
LE GOUVERNEMENT FRANCAIS ESPERE QUE LES AUTORITES SUD-
AFRICAINES RESPONSABLES SAURONT PRENDRE A CETTE FIN
TOUTES LES MESURES NECESSAIRES ET CONVAINCANTES.

IL EST A CRAINDRE, EN EFFET, QUE FAUTE D'UNE
TELLE PREUVE, LA TENSION INTERNATIONALE PROVOQUEE PAR
CETTE AFFAIRE AILLE EN S'ACCROISSANT. IL EXISTE UN
RISQUE SERIEUX QUE CETTE QUESTION SOIT PORTEE DEVANT LE
CONSEIL DE SECURITE AUX NATIONS-UNIES, AVEC LES
CONSEQUENCES EXTREMEMENT GRAVES QUE CELA POURRAIT
IMPLIQUER POUR L'AFRIQUE DU SUD.

UNE TELLE SITUATION METTRAIT MON GOUVERNEMENT DANS
L'OBLIGATION DE RECONSIDERER SA COOPERATION AVEC LE
VOTRE DANS DE NOMBREUX DOMAINES."

THE INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION:

"INSTRUCTION FOR OUR AMBASSADOR
IN SOUTH AFRICA

FOLLOWING THE REPORTS PUBLISHED BY TASS NEWS
AGENCY, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT OF
AUGUST 10, INDICATED UNAMBIGUOUSLY THAT IT WOULD CONDEMN
ANY INITIATIVE BY SOUTH AFRICA TO ACQUIRE A CAPABILITY

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TO SET OFF A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. SINCE THEN, THE US GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WITH INFORMATION WHICH HAS INCREASED ITS APPREHENSION AND WHICH LEADS FRANCE TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA OF ITS VERY ACUTE CONCERN.

I HAVE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT INDISPENSIBLE THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT GIVE PROOF, WITHOUT ANY AMBIGUITY, THAT IT DOES NOT SEEK TO ACQUIRE THE MEANS TO PROCEED WITH NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT THE RESPONSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY AND CONVINCING MEASURES TO THAT END.

IT IS TO BE FEARED, IN EFFECT, THAT, LACKING SUCH PROOF, INTERNATIONAL TENSION PROVOKED BY THIS AFFAIR WOULD INCREASE. THERE EXISTS A SERIOUS RISK THAT THIS

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC IN HIS INITIAL CONVERSATION WITH US. HE SAID HE HAD DONE THIS PRIOR TO READING AN ACCOUNT OF WHAT GENSCHER TOLD BOTHA. HE WAS NOW SATISFIED THAT THE GERMANS HAD MADE THEIR POSITION CLEAR TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS. BUT HE WENT ON TO POINT OUT, THAT WE MUST ALL RECOGNIZE THAT GERMAN EFFORTS, WHETHER OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED OR NOT, HAVE BEEN GREATEST IN THE SENSITIVE AREAS OF SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIVITY. IN ADDITION TO THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE BECKER-NOZZLE PROCESS AND THE ONE USED IN SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTOU POINTED TO THE FACT THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR IN BONN FOR MANY YEARS WAS A NUCLEAR EXPERT AND THAT THE SCIENTIFIC COUNSELOR IN BONN IS A RECENTLY NATURALIZED SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZEN WHO A VERY SHORT TIME AGO HAD BEEN AN ACTIVE GERMAN NUCLEAR SCIENTIST. SOUTOU SAID THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S FRIENDS IN FRANCE ARE VERY CONCERNED THAT INSUFFICIENT SENSITIVITY IS BEING SHOWN BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC IN THESE MATTERS AND THAT EVERY MEANS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO REMIND THE GERMANS TO EXERCISE SOME CARE. ONCE AGAIN HE REITERATED HIS OWN PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE WORST PART OF FRANCE'S ARRANGEMENT WITH PAKISTAN WAS THE TERRIBLE PRECEDENT THIS SETS FOR THE GERMANS TO PURSUE EVEN MORE DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES WITH COUNTRIES LIKE BRAZIL.

4. IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT SOME FRENCHMEN SEE THE GERMANS AS A NON-NUCLEAR POWER WITH A GREAT CAPACITY AND POTENTIAL FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND THAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS HELP AND SYMPATHETIC GUIDANCE IN DEVELOPING ITS POTENTIAL IN A WAY WHICH DOES NOT ENDANGER NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES.

5. SOUTOU SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO A FURTHER
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EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH US ON NEXT STEPS ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN MATTER AFTER WE HAD CONSIDERED THE RESPONSE TO OUR PARALLEL DEMARCHES. HE WAS ALSO PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE BRITISH ARE MAKING AN APPROACH AS WELL SINCE, WHILE RECOGNIZING THEIR SPECIAL PROBLEMS, HE FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THEY NOT APPEAR LESS CONCERNED THAN THE REST OF US.

6. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED AND HOPEFULLY TO MOVE THIS SUBJECT OUT OF THE PRESENT VERY RESTRICTED CATEGORY.
HARTMAN

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