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Department of State  
SECRET N00240

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

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ACTION NOUS-00

LONDON 14019 230055Z

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CHEROKEE

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

REF: LONDON 13921

1. DUFF, PCO ACTING PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY, TOLD CHARGE AUGUST 22 THAT, SINCE BOTHA WAS NOT IN PRETORIA, SCOTT HAD GIVEN FOURIE A WRITTEN DOCUMENT CONTAINING POINTS REFTEL.

FOURIE HAD TOLD SCOTT THAT THE REPORTS WERE "FALSE" AND THAT THE SITE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH NUCLEAR TESTING.

2. DUFF ALSO PROVIDED TEXT, BELOW, OF MESSAGE FROM CALLAGHAN TO BREZHNEV, GIVEN TO SOVIET EMBASSY ON AUGUST 20, IN REPLY TO BREZHNEV'S AUGUST 9 MESSAGE TO CALLAGHAN; DUFF SAID TEXT ALSO WAS BEING SENT TO UK EMBASSY WASHINGTON.

3. BEGIN TEXT: I WAS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR MESSAGE IN WHICH YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU HAD INFORMATION THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WERE COMPLETING WORK ON THE

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PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND PREPARING THE TESTING OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES.

LIKE YOU, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ATTACHES THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO THIS MATTER. I AGREE WITH YOU THAT IT HAS GRAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE REGIME OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION, TO WHICH OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE FULLY COMMITTED IN OUR WORK TOGETHER TO REINFORCE THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, IN THE LONDON NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP, AND IN OUR CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY.

IN VIEW OF YOUR MESSAGE, I HAVE INSTRUCTED THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN PRETORIA TO REPRESENT TO THE SOUTH AFRICA GOVERNMENT THE VERY GRAVE VIEW WE SHOULD TAKE OF THE PRODUCTION AND TESTING OF ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE. WE ARE URGING THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO ALLAY INTERNATIONAL CONCERN AND ARE REPEATING OUR STRONG ADVICE TO THEM TO ACCEDE TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

I SHALL WISH TO WORK CLOSELY WITH YOU ON THIS MATTER IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM. END TEXT.

STREATOR

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