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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8530

S E C R E T PRETORIA 4282

NODIS - CHEROKEE

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZENZINSKI

DEPT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY, LAGOS FOR YOUNG AND MOOSE,
PARIS, LONDON, BONN, USUN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PARM, SF

SUBJECT: FRENCH STATEMENTS ON SA NUCLEAR EXPLOSION CAPABILITY

REF: PRETORIA 4239, PRETORIA 4281, PARIS 24336

1. I SPOKE WITH BRAND FOURIE THIS MORNING TO GET HIS REACTION TO GUIRINGAUD'S STATEMENTS ON SAG NUCLEAR EXPLOSION CAPABILITY (PRETORIA 4281, PARIS 24336). FOURIE WAS AMAZED AND ATTRIBUTED THE FRENCH ACTION TO:

(A) AN EFFORT TO RECOUP LOST PRESTIGE FROM MISHANDLING OF TANZANIA AFFAIRS;

(B) FACT THAT BOTHA IN HIS STATEMENT TO PRESS LAST SUNDAY MENTIONED REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY US THROUGH EMBASSY HERE AND BY GERMANS IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH GENSCHER BUT MADE NO REFERENCE TO FRENCH; THIS MADE IT APPEAR THAT ONLY FRENCH, OF THREE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE OPENLY COOPERATED WITH SAG IN NUCLEAR FIELD, HAD NOT PRESSED ON SUBJECT;

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(C) FRENCH SENSITIVITY TO NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH SAG IN THE LIGHT OF ANTICIPATED CONDEMNATION AT LAGOS MEETING.

2. FOURIE OBSERVED THAT WITH THE KALAHARI TESTING SITE NOW OUT IN THE OPEN, HE ASSUMED WE WOULD WANT TO MAKE USE OF ALL THREE ASSURANCES. I TOLD HIM I EXPECT THAT WE WILL. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT PM IN HIS SPEECH BEFORE CAPE NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS TOMORROW MIGHT WELL REFER TO ALL THREE POINTS AND WILL ALSO STATE THE SAG WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS NPT WITH US, UK AND FRANCE.
BOWDLER

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