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NODIS
FOR MISSION CHIEFS, AMB. YOUNG AND ASSISTANT SEC. MOOSE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS:PARM SF FR GW UK US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

REF: (A) PARIS 24240; (B) STATE 198014; (C) STATE 199091;
(D) BONN 13659 (NOTAL)

1. YOU SHOULD APPROACH YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT AT APPROX
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PRIATELY HIGH LEVEL AND PROVIDE UPDATED BRIEFING ON ISSUE,
DRAWING ON TALKING POINTS PARA 2.

2 A. UK, FRANCE AND FRG ALREADY WELL AWARE OF SERIOUS
CONCERN WITH WHICH WE HAVE VIEWED POSSIBILITY THAT SOUTH
AFRICA MAY BE SEEKING TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE CAPA-
BILITY, ISSUE WHICH TAKES ON NEW IMPORT AS LAGOS CONFER-
ENCE GETS UNDERWAY.

B. IN OUR RECENT REPRESENTATION TO THE SAG, WE REQUESTED
THAT THEY PROVIDE US WITH THREE BASIC ASSURANCES: 1) THAT
SOUTH AFRICA DOES NOT HAVE NOR INTEND TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR
EXPLOSIVES FOR ANY PURPOSE, PEACEFUL OR OTHERWISE; 2) THAT
KALAHARI FACILITY IS NOT TESTING FACILITY FOR NUCLEAR
EXPLOSIVES, AND 3) THAT THERE WILL BE NO NUCLEAR TESTING
OF ANY KIND IN SOUTH AFRICA. WE ALSO REITERATED OUR LONG-
STANDING CONCERN THAT THE SAG HAS NOT RATIFIED THE NPT

NOR PLACED ITS PILOT URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT UNDER
INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS.

C. THE SAG HAS REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY TO ALL THREE
REQUESTS FOR ASSURANCES, AND HAS STATED THAT THERE IS NO
PROBLEM WITH THE US REFERRING PUBLICLY TO 1) AND 3).
SAG HAS TOLD US THAT IT WISHES NO PUBLIC REFERENCE MADE TO
SECOND ASSURANCE SINCE TO SAG'S KNOWLEDGE THERE HAS BEEN
NO PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THE KALAHARI FACILITY BY NAME,
EITHER BY SOVIETS OR OTHERS.

D. SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE ALSO TOLD US THEY WISH TO DISCUSS
ISSUES OF NPT AND INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS AT AN EARLY
OPPORTUNITY, AND WE ARE AWAITING WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY.
WE ARE INFORMED THAT PM VORSTER WILL BE MAKING PUBLIC
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ADDRESS ON AUGUST 24 IN WHICH HE WILL MENTION FIRST AND THIRD AFFIRMATIONS AND NPT AND, IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT EXISTENCE OF KALAHARI FACILITY HAS BEEN REFERRED TO PUBLICLY, PERHAPS SECOND AFFIRMATION AS WELL.

E. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE GENERALLY FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE EVINCED BY SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENTS TO US SO FAR, AND WILL PURSUE THESE ISSUES URGENTLY AND VIGOROUSLY WITH THEM.

F. AT SAME TIME, WE SEE LONGER-RANGE PROBLEMS ON THIS ISSUE WITH WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO DEAL, AND INTEND TO REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH OUR MAJOR ALLIES AND KEY NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS IN DEALING WITH THEM.

G. WE WILL WELCOME FURTHER EXCHANGES OF VIEWS AND INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER. WE ARE INFORMING THE USSR IN GENERAL TERMS OF THE RESULTS OF OUR EXCHANGES WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

3. FOREGOING TALKING POINTS REFLECT BASIC STATE OF PLAY AS OF NOW, BUT OBVIOUSLY DO NOT ADDRESS IN ANY DETAIL LONGER-RANGE AND TOUGHER ISSUES THAT WILL HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED IN CURRENT AND POST-LAGOS PERIOD. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT FULL AND PUBLIC SAG AFFIRMATION OF THE THREE ASSURANCES REQUESTED, PLUS FORWARD MOVEMENT ON THE SAFEGUARDS AND NPT ISSUES, WILL NEITHER DEFUSE EXPLOSIVE NATURE OF ISSUE IN LAGOS CONTEXT NOR FORESTALL AFRICAN DEMANDS, NO DOUBT URGED ON BY SOVIETS, FOR EXTREME STEPS IN SC AND ELSEWHERE. THE FIRST VERY DIFFICULT STEP IS TO SATISFY OURSELVES THAT SOUTH AFRICANS ARE NOT PROCEEDING AND WILL NOT PROCEED IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. THEIR ASSURANCES ARE ONE IMPORTANT STEP IN THIS

DIRECTION. SECOND AND EQUALLY DIFFICULT STEP WILL BE TO PERSUADE AFRICANS AND OTHERS THAT SOUTH AFRICANS ARE NOT

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DOING SO. DEPARTMENT HOPES THAT ANY THOUGHTS THAT MAY BE DEVELOPED IN YOUR BRIEFINGS AS TO POSSIBLE USEFUL NEXT STEPS WILL BE REPEATED TO DEPARTMENT FOR OUR CONSIDERATION.

4. FOR BONN: REF (D) JUST RECEIVED. WE DO NOT BELIEVE ANY ONE NATION CAN CARRY THE BALL ALONE ON THIS ISSUE, AND HOPE THEREFORE THAT FRG DEMARCHE WILL GO FORWARD. SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSE TO OUR REPRESENTATIONS HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING BUT HARDLY DEFINITIVE, AND WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT AND IN THE INTEREST OF ALL THAT OTHER CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS JOIN US IN PRIVATELY CONTINUING TO IMPRESS ON SAG IMPORTANCE OF FULLY RESPONSIVE ACTION ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS ISSUE.

5. FOR PARIS: DEPARTMENT NOTES AP AND UPI ITEMS REPORTING FONMIN DE GUIRINGAUD'S STATEMENTS TO EFFECT THAT FRANCE HAS NEW, "MORE PRECISE" INDICATIONS THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS BUILDING NUCLEAR WEAPON. WE WOULD OF COURSE BE INTERESTED IN ANY NEW INFORMATION WHICH THE FRENCH HAVE DEVELOPED ON SUBJECT, AND IN DETAILED READING, IF AVAILABLE, OF CONTENT OF FRENCH DEMARCHE TO SAG AND REACTION TO SAME. WE ASSUME, WE HOPE CORRECTLY, THAT HE WAS NOT MAKING REFERENCE TO INFORMATION FURNISHED BY US IN STRICT CONFIDENCE. CHRISTOPHER

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