

NODIS

S/AS
H

~~NO DISTRIBUTION~~

Declassified Case: NW# 51408 Date: 07-24-2023

FROM _____ NO. 192512 DATE 8/13/77

TO Secretary FOIA(b)(3) - 50 USC 3507 - CIA CIA

LOU ~~CONF~~ ~~SECRET~~ ~~TOP SECRET~~ [Redacted]

DISTRIBUTION AUTH. BY _____ READ BY TOSEC 80360 (DATE/TIME)

EXSEC _____ SECTO _____
FAST DESK _____
SLOW DESK _____
S/S DO _____ DIST. BY (S/S-I) _____
DDO _____ DATE/TIME _____
REPEAT TO _____
BY _____ DATE/TIME _____

~~SENSITIVE~~

The attached document may be seen only by the addressee and, if not expressly precluded, by those officials under his authority whom he considers to have a clear-cut "need to know".

This document has been made available only to those offices marked. It is not to be reproduced, given any additional distribution, or discussed with non-recipients without the express prior approval of the Executive Secretary.

Addressees outside the Department of State should handle the document in accordance with the above instructions and with current State instructions on NODIS.

When this document is no longer needed, the recipient is responsible for seeing that it is destroyed and for mailing of record of destruction to the Director, S/S-I, Room 7241 NS. Originals of non-telegraphic NODIS material, however, should be hand carried to S/S-I for appropriate disposition.

Executive Secretary
Department of State

~~NO DISTRIBUTION~~

NODIS

S 2,3	A
D 4	EB
P 5	H
	IGA
	INR //
	IO
	L
	OES
	PM
	SCA
	OTHER _____
	OTHER _____
	ACDA
	AID
	OMB
	TREASURY
	CIA LDX
	CIA COURIER
	SECDEF LDX
	SECDEF COURIER
	WH LDX
	WH COURIER
	OTHER _____
	OTHER _____
	S/S-I A
	B
	C
	TOSEC CHRON
	SECTO CHRON

NON-SECRET-NOIS



Department of State

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

~~TOP SECRET~~

N00710

PAGE 01 STATE 192512 TOSEC 080360
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY D:DLAMB:MS
APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY
S/S-D:AWOTTO

-----027109 131723Z /41

O 131713Z AUG 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE FOIA(b)(3) - 50 USC 3507 - CIA CIA

~~TOP SECRET~~ STATE 192512 TOSEC 080360

~~NODS~~

[Redacted] FOR THE SECRETARY FROM WARREN CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1,2,3,

AGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), PARM, SF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM

REF: (A) PRETORIA 4021; (B) STATE 188207 (TOSEC 080319)

WE ARE BEING STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT THE SOUTH AFRICANS ON THE NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS WITHOUT DELAY. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR APPROVAL OR COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FOR PRETORIA.

EO25x1 CIA

BEGIN TEXT:

[Redacted]

WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL PROBABILITY, THOUGH NOT A CERTAINTY, THAT THE

~~TOP SECRET~~

STATE DEPT DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

Exempted, EO 12958, 25X

Declassify after _____

Declassify only with concurrence of CIA

Declassify Change/Classify to C

IPS by C Welsh Date: 6-22-04

Other Agency Action: _____

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

NON-SECRET



Department of State

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

~~TOP SECRET~~

EO25x1 CIA

PAGE 02 STATE 192512 T05EC 080360

[REDACTED] IS AN UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TEST FACILITY. THIS EVIDENCE, WHEN COMBINED WITH PRIOR EVIDENCE OF AN UNSAFEGUARDED ENRICHMENT PLANT CAPABLE OF PRODUCING HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM, AND EVIDENCE OF WEAPONS RELATED R&D, MAKES IT APPEAR LIKELY THAT SOUTH AFRICANS ARE ENGAGED IN NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES PROGRAM, AND ARE FURTHER ALONG THAN WE PREVIOUSLY REALIZED.

2. LONGER-RANGE STRATEGY FOR PREVENTING SOUTH AFRICA FROM BECOMING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATE, AS WELL AS FOLLOW-ON STEPS WE AND OTHERS MIGHT TAKE TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL, ARE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION HERE. HOWEVER, THE SITUATION IS SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO JUSTIFY IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO WARN THE SOUTH AFRICANS IN UNAMBIGUOUS TERMS OF THE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES OF A NUCLEAR TEST OR OTHER STEPS IN THE DIRECTION OF ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

3. AMBASSADOR IS ACCORDINGLY REQUESTED TO DISCUSS ISSUE WITH BOTHAs AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, DRAWING ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

(A) WE HAVE NOTED YOUR PREVIOUS ASSURANCES THAT YOUR NUCLEAR PROGRAM IS DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO PEACEFUL PURPOSES, HOWEVER, THE POSSESSION BY SOUTH AFRICA OF AN UNSAFEGUARDED ENRICHMENT PLANT, AND YOUR PERSISTENT DELAY IN ADHERING TO THE NPT, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GROUNDS FOR CONCERN. NOW, ON THE BASIS OF OUR INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION, WE HAVE SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE WHICH APPEARS TO BE CONTRARY TO YOUR ASSURANCES.

(B) IN LIGHT OF THE GRAVE IMPLICATIONS, THE PRESIDENT HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE DETONATION OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE--WHETHER A NUCLEAR WEAPON OR A SO-CALLED

~~TOP SECRET~~

STATE DEPT DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
 Exempted, EO 12958, 25X
 Declassify after _____
 Declassify only with concurrence of CIA
 Declassify Change/Classify to C
 IPS by PC Walsh Date: 6-22-04
 Other Agency Action: _____

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

N
D
D
-
S
-
N
D
D
-
S
-
N
D
D
-
S
-
N
D
D
-
S



Department of State

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

~~TOP SECRET~~

PAGE 03

STATE 192512 T0SEC 080360

PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE--OR ANY FURTHER STEPS TO ACQUIRE OR DEVELOP A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE CAPABILITY WOULD HAVE THE MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS, AND WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY US AS A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE PEACE.

(C) WE HAVE THIS MATTER UNDER URGENT CONSIDERATION, AND WILL RAISE WITH YOU IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS THE STEPS WE BELIEVE ARE NEEDED TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE. HOWEVER, IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, WE BELIEVE IT IS IN YOUR OWN INTEREST TO PUT THESE CONCERNS TO REST. ASSURANCES, SUCH AS THOSE GIVEN ON AUGUST 10 BY VAN DALSEN CANNOT RESOLVE THESE DOUBTS. INSTEAD, WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD FIND MEANS TO DEMONSTRATE, IN A PUBLICLY PERSUASIVE WAY, THAT THE KALAHARI FACILITY IS NOT A NUCLEAR TEST SITE, AND THAT YOUR PILOT ENRICHMENT PLANT IS NOT AND WILL NOT BE USED TO PRODUCE ENRICHED URANIUM FOR ANY EXPLOSIVE PURPOSE.

4. IF ASKED WHAT THE US PROPOSES TO DO BY WAY OF A LONGER-RANGE RESOLUTION, YOU SHOULD INDICATE WE HAVE NOT YET MADE UP OUR MINDS, BUT WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY ANY SUGGESTIONS THE SAS HAD AS TO HOW THE SITUATION COULD BE BROUGHT TO A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION.

5. BEGIN FYI: WE EXPECT TO CONSULT IN STRICTED CONFIDENCE WITH A LIMITED NUMBER OF ALLIES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS BEFORE DECIDING ON NEXT STEPS. I WOULD WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON BOTH NEXT STEPS AND LONGER-RANGE STRATEGY. END FYI.

END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

~~TOP SECRET~~

STATE DEPT DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
 Exempted, EO 12958, 25X
 Declassify after _____
 Declassify only with concurrence of CIA
 Declassify Change/Classify to C
 IPS by P. Walsh Date: 6-22-04
 Other Agency Action: _____

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY