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FM CAPE TOWN EMBASSY 171527Z AUG 81

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 130 OF 17 AUGUST

INFO SAVING CAPE TOWN(CG), JO'BURG, DURBAN.

MY TELNO 124: SQUATTERS

1. IN A CONCILIATORY MOVE ON 14 AUGUST THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE POSITION OF THOSE OF THE NYANGA SQUATTERS WHO WERE ILLEGALLY RESIDING IN THE CAPE, BUT WHO HAD EMPLOYMENT, WOULD BE LEGALISED. THOSE WITHOUT EMPLOYMENT WOULD BE OFFERED JOBS IN THE TRANSVAAL AND ORANGE FREE STATE. HOWEVER THOSE LEGALISED OR GIVEN JOBS ELSEWHERE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE ALLOWED TO KEEP THEIR FAMILIES WITH THEM.

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS FOLLOWED BY SOME RELAXATION IN OFFICIAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE SQUATTERS. OVER THE WEEKEND A NEW SQUATTER CAMP AT NYANGA SPRANG UP AS HOMELESS AND JOBLESS BLACKS FLOCKED TO THE AREA TO CASH IN ON THE JOB BONANZA AND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE FOOD AND CLOTHING BEING SUPPLIED BY RELIEF ORGANISATIONS. THERE ARE NOW ABOUT 2000 PEOPLE AT NYANGA, COMPARED TO ABOUT 400 BEFORE THE WEEKEND. MANY OF THE NEW ARRIVALS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY INVOLVED IN THE ORIGINAL EVICTIONS. OTHERS WERE ILLEGALLY SQUATTING ELSEWHERE IN THE CAPE PENINSULAR.

3. THE GOVERNMENT IS APPARENTLY CAUGHT IN A NO-WIN SITUATION. ON THE ONE HAND ENFORCEMENT OF INFLUX CONTROL AND HARASSMENT OF ILLEGAL SQUATTERS HAS PRODUCED AN OUTCRY AT HOME AND ABROAD. ON THE OTHER HAND CONCESSIONS HAVE LED TO AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBERS INVOLVED, WHICH WILL CREATE NEW PROBLEMS OF SANITATION AND HYGIENE. MOREOVER THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCESSIONS DO NOT TACKLE ONE OF THE PRIME CAUSES OF ILLEGAL RESIDENCE, NAMELY THE WISH OF FAMILIES TO LIVE WITH THE BREADWINNER.

PRETORIA REGY PSE PASS SAVING JO'BURG, DURBAN.

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[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]
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