

South Africa

SOUTHERN AFRICA: ADVANCE COPIES 18

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 159 OF 9 DECEMBER

INFO PRIORITY PRETORIA, UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON,
ROUTINE MBABANE, GABORONE, HARARE, LUANDA, MAPUTO

PRETORIA TELNO 1081 AND TELECON VARCOE/IVINS: SOUTH AFRICAN RAID ON
LESOTHO.

1. LOCAL ESTIMATE OF DEATH TOLL HAS NOW REACHED FORTY OF WHICH TEN (INCLUDING TWO CHILDREN) ARE BASOTHO CITIZENS OF NO KNOWN ANC AFFILIATION.
 2. THE REMAINING THIRTY WERE KNOWN TO BE ANC SYMPATHISERS THOUGH THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY COULD BE SEEN AS POTENTIAL TERRORISTS MUST BE IN DOUBT. WE HAVE ONE EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT OF A QUANTITY OF ARMS BEING REMOVED FROM ONE OF THE DAMAGED APPARTMENTS. EVEN SO, THE ATTACK INVOLVED MANY INSTANCES OF INDISCRIMINATE KILLING OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS.
 3. I AM CONSULTING THIS AFTERNOON WITH MY GERMAN AND OTHER EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES. WE HOPE TO PRODUCE A JOINT REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE TEN, WHICH WILL INCLUDE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF DANGER POSED TO SOUTH AFRICA BY THOSE KILLED.
 4. GOL BELIEVE THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES WERE GUIDED BY A FEW MEMBERS OF THE LLA WHO ACTED AS THEIR SCOUTS IN PIN-POINTING TARGETS, OFTEN ERRONEOUSLY.
- FCO PLEASE PASS ALL

CLEMENS