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FM CAPE TOWN 220615Z JUN 84

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NO 448 OF 21 JUNE

INFO ROUTINE TO GABORONE, HARARE, MBABANE, MASERU.

MS

SOUTH AFRICA'S RELATIONS WITH HER NEIGHBOURS

1. MINISTER HAD LUNCH TODAY WITH MANLEY, PIK BOTHA'S PRIVATE SECRETARY (WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE TALKS AT CHEQUERS). MANLEY COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS ON THE CURRENT SOUTHERN AFRICAN SCENE.

BOTSWANA:

2. MINISTER RAISED PROBLEMS DISCUSSED IN GABORONE TELS NOS MISC 61 TO ME AND 131 TO YOU. MANLEY SAID THAT THE BATSWANA WERE PARANOID. THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO THE BATSWANA THAT, IF SOUTH AFRICA WERE GOING TO RELY EXCLUSIVELY ON SODA ASH FROM THE SUAPAN PLANT, THEN THEY MUST HAVE GUARANTEES OF SECURITY OF SUPPLY. THIS MEANT ASSURANCES ABOUT CONTROL OVER THE ANC, WHO WOULD SEE THE SUAPAN PLANT AS AN ATTRACTIVE TARGET FOR SABOTAGE IN VIEW OF THE DAMAGE WHICH THIS COULD CAUSE THROUGH THE DISRUPTION OF SUPPLIES. IF THE BATSWANA WERE NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE GUARANTEES, SOUTH AFRICA WOULD WISH TO HELP THEM CONTROL THE ANC. MINISTER SAID THAT IF THIS IMPLIED CROSS-BORDER RAIDS, THEN THIS WOULD BE BOUND TO BE REGARDED AS AN INFRINGEMENT OF BOTSWANA'S SOVEREIGNTY. MANLEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES, BUT INSISTED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAG TO GET A FIRM UNDERSTANDING ON THESE SECURITY ISSUES.

LESOTHO:

3. MANLEY SAID THAT THE SAG WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT THE LACK OF PROGRESS ON THE PROPOSED SECURITY AGREEMENT. THEY WERE VERY SORRY TO LEARN THAT THABANE (PERMANENT SECRETARY AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD MOVED TO ANOTHER POST. THEY THOUGHT THAT SEKHONYANA'S POSITION HAD BEEN WEAKENED. THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT JONATHAN WAS NOW TRYING TO ACHIEVE. LIKE THE BATSWANA, THE BASOTHO WERE PARANOID ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA.

SWAZILAND:

4. MANLEY CONFIRMED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS THERE. THEY WERE WATCHING THE SITUATION CLOSELY. HOWEVER, THE DECISION TO DISSOLVE THE RUMPF COMMISSION (MY TELNO 446) HAD BEEN TAKEN BEFORE THE LATEST EVENTS AND THE DECISION HAD NOT BEEN INFLUENCED BY THEM. HE WOULD NOT BE DRAWN ON THE TIMING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT. BOTHELEZI (AS PARANOID AS THE BASOTHO AND BATSWANA) HAD DELIBERATELY MISUNDERSTOOD DR KOORNHOF'S CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AND HAD ISSUED A MISCHIEVOUS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS.

ZIMBABWE:

5. MANLEY SAID THAT THEY WERE BEGINNING TO SEE A CHINK OF LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL. THEY WERE MODESTLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OPENING A DIALOGUE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.

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MOZAMBIQUE:

6. MANLEY REPORTED GOOD WORKING PROGRESS AND CONFIRMED THAT THE SAG WERE DOING WHAT THEY COULD TO REASSURE MACHEL OF SOUTH AFRICAN SINCERITY.

ANGOLA:

7. THE SITUATION WAS IN A STATE OF FLUX AND NO EARLY DEVELOPMENTS COULD BE EXPECTED.

FERGUSSON

SOUTHERN AFRICA

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