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PS/NO. 10 DOWNING STREET

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

FM PRETORIA 241600Z SEPT 1984
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO. 408 OF 24TH SEPT 1984
INFO SAVING JOHANNESBURG, DURBAN.

MY TELNO 395: DURBAN INCIDENT

SUMMARY

1. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT SECURITY AT THE DURBAN CONSULATE. THE INSTRUCTING SOLICITOR FOR THE SIX MAY INTERVENE LATER THIS WEEK TO ADVISE THEM TO LEAVE THE CONSULATE.

DETAIL

2. WE ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. WE ARE LARGELY IN BARCLAYS' HANDS AND THERE IS A LIMIT TO WHAT BARCLAYS COULD DO IF FACED WITH CERTAIN SITUATIONS.

3. THE CONSULATE ARE RECEIVING FREQUENT BOMB THREATS. BARCLAYS DO WHAT THEY CAN TO SEARCH THE BUILDING ON EACH OCCASION, BUT WE CANNOT DISMISS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE MIGHT BE A REAL INCIDENT. IT IS RELEVANT THAT WE HAVE ALSO BEEN RECEIVING VENOMOUS ANONYMOUS PHONE CALLS, THAT A NUMBER OF UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SPOTTED OVER A PERIOD OUTSIDE THE BARCLAYS BUILDING, AND THAT ONE UNIDENTIFIED PERSON WAS SPOTTED WITHIN THE BUILDING ON FRIDAY ACTING SUSPICIOUSLY. WE CANNOT CONTROL ACCESS TO OTHER SURROUNDING BUILDINGS AND HAVE ALREADY HAD ONE REPORT OF PEOPLE ON A BEIGHBOURING ROOFTOP WHO TURNED OUT TO BE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS.

4. WE WERE ANNOYED TO DISCOVER THAT TWO PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN WITHIN THE CONSULATE HAD BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE DURBAN PAPERS AT THE WEEK-

4. WE WERE ANNOYED TO DISCOVER THAT TWO PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN WITHIN THE CONSULATE HAD BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE DURBAN PAPERS AT THE WEEK-END. A CAMERA HAD BEEN SMUGGLED IN BY ONE OF THE VISITORS TO THE SIX. WE HAVE REMONSTRATED WITH THE INSTRUCTING ATTORNEYS, POINTING OUT THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SIX ARE CONTRITE. HOWEVER, THIS IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH THE SIX ARE CONTINUING TO TRY TO MANOEUVRE THEIR WAY TOWARDS MORE CONCESSIONS.

5. WE HAVE TODAY HAD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH BARCLAYS ABOUT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN THE BANK BUILDING AND HAVE ASKED WHAT THEY WOULD DO IN THE EVENT OF A BOMB THREAT OUT OF HOURS. IN VIEW OF THIS CONSIDERATION, WHICH HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY OCCURRED TO THEM, THEY ARE RECONSIDERING THEIR POSITION AND IT APPEARS THAT THEY WILL NOT IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAW THEIR OWN BANK GUARDS.

6. THE HEAD OF CHANCERY HAS TALKED AT LENGTH ABOUT OUR ANXIETIES TO MRS JANA, THE JOHANNESBURG LAWYER WHO IS THE INSTRUCTING SOLICITOR FOR THE SIX. HE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK IN MORE GENERAL TERMS ABOUT OUR CONCERNS, ABOUT THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON CONSULAR RELATIONS AND TO ASK WHETHER ANY USEFUL PURPOSE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE CONDUCT OF LEGAL REPRESENTATIONS WAS NOW SERVED BY THE SIX REMAINING WITHIN THE OFFICE. MRS JANA SAID THAT SHE WAS HAPPY TO TALK ABOUT THIS INFORMALLY, BUT WOULD NOT WISH TO BE QUOTED. FROM HER POINT OF VIEW THERE WAS NOW NO ADVANTAGE IN THE SIX REMAINING IN THE CONSULATE.

SHE RECOGNISED THE FORCE OF OUR ANXIETIES AND PARTICULARLY OUR CONCERN ABOUT WHAT CONSTITUTED PROPER ACTIVITIES FROM CONSULAR PREMISES. SHE IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN A TREASON TRIAL IN JOHANNESBURG WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE ADJOURNED LATER THIS WEEK. SHE UNDERTOOK THAT SHE WOULD THEN GO AGAIN TO DURBAN TO TALK TO THE SIX AND SAID THAT SHE WOULD TRY TO GET THEIR AGREEMENT TO LEAVE THE CONSULATE AS SOON AS JUDGEMENT WAS DELIVERED BY THE NATAL BENCH. HER RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE THAT THEY SHOULD LEAVE WHETHER OR NOT THE FINDING WAS IN THEIR FAVOUR. SHE SAID THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE COURT CASE WOULD IN ANY CASE MAKE LITTLE DIFFERENCE AS IT WAS OPEN TO THE STATE TO REDETAIN THE SIX UNDER ANOTHER SECTION OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT IF THEY WISHED TO DO SO. SHE HOPED THAT THE SIX WOULD ACCEPT HER ADVICE AND SHE NATURALLY COULD NOT BE CERTAIN ABOUT THIS.

7. MRS JANA'S OFFER MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE. WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN HOW THE SIX WILL RESPOND, BUT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THEY WILL RESPECT THE ADVICE OF THE INSTRUCTING SOLICITOR. I AM INCREASINGLY INCLINED TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO THE SIX. SHOULD YOU INSTRUCT ME TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ON THE SIX, I COULD REASONABLY ASK FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT A LITTLE MORE TIME IS NEEDED TO INFLUENCE THE SIX IN THE DIRECTION OF VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE AND THAT IT IS IN BOTH THE BRITISH AND SOUTH AFRICAN INTEREST NOT TO ROCK THE BOAT BY INJUDICIOUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

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