

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 101100Z

FROM PRETORIA 100900ZTO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 499 OF 10 OCTOBER 84MIPT: DURBAN CONSULATE

SUMMARY

1. WE HAVE MADE IT VERY PLAIN TO THE THREE AND THEIR LEGAL ADVISERS THAT WE ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT ONE OF THE THREE CONTRIVED TO BROADCAST CLANDESTINELY AN INTERVIEW FROM THE BUILDING.

DETAIL

2. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO NAIR AND TO ADVOCATE YACOOB. WE HAVE TOLD BOTH THAT WE TAKE A VERY SERIOUS VIEW OF THE ACTION WHICH LED TO NAIR GIVING A RADIO INTERVIEW FROM WITHIN THE CONSULATE.
3. NAIR REFUSED TO COMMENT BUT LOOKED CRESTFALLEN. WE UNDERSTAND FROM PRESS CONTACTS THAT A RADIO MICROPHONE WAS SMUGGLED IN TO HIM BY HIS RELATIVES (ALTHOUGH IT COULD ALSO HAVE COME FROM LAWYERS), AND THAT THROUGH THIS HE WAS ABLE TO GIVE AN INTERVIEW TO A CORRESPONDENT IN A NEIGHBOURING BUILDING. PICTURES OF THE THREE AT A WINDOW WERE FILMED BY A TV CAMERA IN AN ADJACENT CAR PARK.
4. WE TOLD YACOB THAT WE HAD TO REGARD THE EPISODE AS A SERIOUS BREACH OF GOOD FAITH. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE IT VERY PLAIN TO THE LAWYERS AND THE SIX THAT WE WERE COUNTING ON THE SIX NOT TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR ITEMS TO BE SMUGGLED IN BEHIND OUR BACKS. THEY WERE WELL AWARE THAT OUR RULES DO NOT ALLOW RADIO EQUIPMENT INT THE BUILDING. THE USE OF THE RADIO MICROPHONE HAD SHOWN NO UNDERSTANDING OF THE SENSITIVITY OF OUR SITUATION. HE WOULD KNOW WHAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAD SAID ABOUT THE USE OF THE CONSULATE FOR PROPOGANDA BROADCASTS.
5. YACOOB MADE NO COMMENT. WE ADDED THAT IN THIS SITUATION HE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT WE CONSIDERED THESE EVENTS FURTHER AMPLE JUSTIFICATION FOR OUR ADVICE THAT THE THREE SHOULD LEAVE. WE SHOULD NOW NEED TO GIVE FURTHER EARLY CONSIDERATION TO HOW THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT WOULD AFFECT OUR POSITION IN DURBAN. IT UNDERLINED A NEED FOR AN IMMEDIATE CONSIDERED REPLY FROM THE THREE. WE HOPED THAT THIS WOULD CONFIRM THAT THEY HAD ACCEPTED OUR ADVICE. YACOOB UNDERTOOK TO CONSULT.

CONFIDENTIAL

6. IN AN ATTEMPT TO ENSURE THAT OUR CONCERN IS TAKEN SERIOUSLY WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT PENDING A REPLY WE SHALL NEED TO TIGHTEN TODAY'S ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACCESS TO THE THREE. THE LEGAL ADVISERS WOULD BE ADMITTED BUT WE SHOULD NEED TO REVIEW HOW RELATIVES ARE TO BE TREATED LATER TODAY IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT ASSURANCES HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO US.

7. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT YOUR TEL NOS 264 AND 265 REACHED THE EMBASSY ONLY AT 1000 LOCAL TIME ON 10 OCTOBER. OUR ACTION WAS TAKEN BEFORE THE RECEIPT OF THE TELEGRAMS BUT ON LINES AGREED WITH REEVE BY TELEPHONE LAST NIGHT.

MOBERLY

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-2-
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