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FM CAPE TOWN EMBASSY 101700Z MAY 85

TO ROUTPNE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 171 OF 10 MAY

INFO ROUTINE PRETORIA

INFO SAVING JOHANNESBURG, DURBAN, CAPE TOWN CONSULATE

FORCED REMOVALS

SUMMARY

1. 52 TOWNSHIPS WILL NOT BE RESETTLED. ENCOURAGING REPORTS ABOUT POLICY ON KWANGEMA AND DRIEFONTEIN.

DETAIL

2. IN A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ON 9 MAY THE JOHANNESBURG CITIZEN REPORTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED THAT 700,000 BLACKS AND 52 TOWNSHIPS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN RESETTLED WOULD INSTEAD BE LEFT IN SITU. THE 52 TOWNSHIPS WOULD BE DEVELOPED.

3. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT ABOUT THIS REPORT AND HAVE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION THAT IT IS CORRECT. THE DEPARTMENT HAVE GIVEN US A LIST OF THE TOWNSHIPS CONCERNED. THESE RANGE FROM BLACK TOWNSHIPS IN MAJOR URBAN AREAS TO SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES. A COPY OF THE LIST FOLLOWS BY BAG.

4. ALTHOUGH THIS APPEARS TO BE THE OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW OF RESETTLEMENT POLICIES ANNOUNCED EARLIER THIS YEAR, NOT ALL OF THE COMMUNITIES THREATENED BY RESETTLEMENT APPEAR IN THE LIST. ARCHER SPOKE TO WILKENS, THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND LAND AFFAIRS, TODAY (10 MAY) ABOUT HIS DEPARTMENT'S POLICY ON REMOVALS. WILKENS SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS LIKELY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD IN DUE COURSE WISH TO ANNOUNCE THE FORMAL OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW. THEY WERE NOT YET READY TO DO SO BECAUSE DECISIONS HAD STILL TO BE TAKEN ABOUT OTHER COMMUNITIES. HOWEVER, WE COULD BE ASSURED THAT GOVERNMENT POLICY HAD CHANGED. THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO MOVE COMMUNITIES AGAINST THEIR WILL. THE PROBLEM WAS THAT THERE WAS NOT AGREEMENT IN ALL COMMUNITIES ABOUT WHAT THE COMMUNITIES WISHED TO DO.

5. WILKENS SAID THAT HE KNEW THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE COMMUNITIES AT KWANGEMA, DRIEFONTEIN, AND MATHOPESTAD. HE HAD HAD THREE ROUNDS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COMMUNITIES AT KWANGEMA AND DRIEFONTEIN. AS A RESULT IT WAS EVIDENT TO HPM THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN THE TWO COMMUNITIES DID NOT WANT TO MOVE. THERE WAS HOWEVER A NEED TO DECIDE WHAT WAS GOING TO BE DONE ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE FLOODING OF LAND. THE DRIEFONTEIN COMMUNITY WISHED TO BE COMPENSATED HECTARE FOR HECTARE. THE KWANGEMA COMMUNITY WERE A LITTLE MORE FLEXIBLE. THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER SOME COMPENSATION IN CASH OR IN KIND EG. AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT BUT THEY TOO WANTED AS

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MUCH LAND IN COMPENSATION AS POSSIBLE. THERE WERE 900 HECTARES AVAILABLE ADJACENT TO THE EXISTING SITES FOR RESETTLEMENT. 2,100 HECTARES WAS HOWEVER NEEDED. THE DEPARTMENT WERE NOW LOOKING URGENTLY AT OTHER ADJACENT SITES WITH A VIEW TO SEEING WHETHER THEY COULD ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL LAND IN THE VICINITY.

6. MATHOPESTAD WAS MORE COMPLICATED. THERE SEEMED TO BE A DIVISION OF OPINION AMONG THE COMMUNITY AND ALTHOUGH IT WAS BEING REPRESENTED THAT THE LAND OWNERS DID NOT WISH TO MOVE THE DEPARTMENT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH WHICH RESIDENTS HAD A LEGAL RIGHT TO LAND. THIS WAS TO BE LOOKED AT URGENTLY BY A SPECIALLY APPOINTED LEGAL TEAM. ONCE THIS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED HE WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER AGAIN FULLY WITH THE LAND OWNERS. MANY OF THEIR TENANTS WISHED TO MOVE BUT THERE WAS NO REASON WHY LANDLESS TENANTS AT MATHOPESTAD SHOULD RECEIVE SPECIAL TREATMENT. A DECISION WOULD BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF THE WISHES OF THE MAJORITY OF LANDOWNERS.

7. THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE ENCOURAGING. THE DECISION NOT TO PROCEED WITH FORCED REMOVALS IN MANY COMMUNITIES IS VERY WELCOME. IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT OTHER COMMUNITIES WHOSE FUTURE REMAINS IN DOUBT WILL BE ABLE TO REMAIN IN THEIR PRESENT AREAS IF THEY WISH TO DO SO.

MOBERLY

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