

PS
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
MR FERGUSSON
SIR J FREELAND
MR JOHNSON
MR O'NEILL
HD/SAFD
HD/CAFD
HD/UND
HD/NEWS DEPT
~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

MR CLG MALLABY , CABINET OFFICE

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

ADVANCE COPY
IMMEDIATE

15.11.84

PP MPTUO

PP LUANDA

GRS 500

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY FCO 1530Z

CAPE TOWN 1530Z

FM GABORONE 141435Z JUN 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 111 OF 14 JUNE 1985

INFO IMMEDIATE CAPE TOWN, WASHINGTON AND UKMIS NEW YORK.

INFO PRIORITY HARARE, LUSAKA, MASERU, MBABANE, MAPUTO AND LUANDA.

SOUTH AFRICAN RAID ON GABORONE

1. FOLLOWING CONFIRMS TELECONS REEVE/JONES.

S U M M A R Y

2. SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES TRAVELLING IN MINI-BUSES AND MILITARY VEHICLES ATTACKED SEVERAL WIDELY SEPARATED HOUSES IN GABORONE BETWEEN 0140 AND 0200 THIS MORNING. TWELVE DEAD AND SEVERAL SERIOUSLY INJURED.

D E T A I L

3. DR CHIEPE BRIEFED HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ON THE RAIDS. SHE SAID THAT SOME OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RAIDING FORCE HAD CROSSED INTO BOTSWANA DURING THE NIGHT, OTHERS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE CROSSED THE PREVIOUS DAY. THE MAIN ATTACKS TOOK PLACE AT ABOUT 0140 HOURS AT SEVERAL DIFFERENT PLACES IN GABORONE SUBURBS (THOUGH WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS OF FIRING AS EARLY AS 0100 HOURS). NOT ONLY DID THEY ATTACK SEVERAL HOUSES OF SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEES BUT THEY SHOT AT CARS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE LEAVING ONE OF THE HOTELS

NOT ONLY DID THEY ATTACK SEVERAL HOUSES OF SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEES BUT THEY SHOT AT CARS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE LEAVING ONE OF THE HOTELS (WE HAVE SEPARATE FIRST-HAND REPORTS OF CARS BEING SHOT AT, INCLUDING ONE BEING COMPLETELY DESTROYED, AT THAT SPOT, THOUGH THE WITNESSES DID NOT KNOW WHERE THE SHOTTING CAME FROM). TWELVE PEOPLE HAVE DIED (PRESS REPORTS SAY THEY INCLUDE A CHILD) - NINE SOUTH AFRICANS, ONE DUTCH AND TWO FEMALE BATSWANA. AND A NUMBER WERE STILL IN HOSPITAL. (SINCE THE LAST TELECON WE HAVE HEARD THAT ONE BRITISH CITIZEN WAS VERY SLIGHTLY INJURED BY SHRAPNEL WHEN SHE WENT OUTSIDE CLOSE BY ONE OF THE INCIDENTS).

4. THE

4. THE BOTSWANA DEFUSED SOME BOMBS. WITHIN THIRTY MINUTES THE BDF HAD MOUNTED ROAD BLOCKS, BUT CAUGHT NOBODY.

5. DR CHIEPE RECALLED THAT WHEN SHE MET PIK BOTHA LAST FEBRUARY HE HAD ASSURED HER THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS BELIEVED THE BATSWANA WHEN THEY MAINTAINED THAT THEY DID NOT ALLOW THEIR COUNTRY TO BE USED AS A BASE FOR ATTACKING NEIGHBOURS. IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THAT MEETING A BOMB HAD BLOWN UP A HOUSE OCCUPIED BY SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEES IN A GABORONE SUBURB. MORE RECENTLY A CAR BOMB HAD KILLED A SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEE AND, BUT FOR THE ACCIDENT OF TIMING OF THE EXPLOSION COULD EASILY HAVE KILLED CHILDREN GOING TO AND FROM A NEARBY PRIMARY SCHOOL. BOTSWANA HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY ACCUSED THE SOUTH AFRICANS OF THOSE INCIDENTS BUT EVERYTHING POINTED TO THEM. NOW THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE PROCLAIMING WITH PRIDE THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS MISSION. IF THEY COULD VIOLATE SOVEREIGNTY IN CABINDA AND NOW IN GABORONE WHAT HOPE WAS THERE? BOTSWANA THINK THAT THERE WILL BE MORE SUCH ATTACKS (LATEST NEW REPORT FROM SOUTH AFRICA STATE THAT THE SADF PREDICT THEM).

6. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS DR CHIEPE SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT YET BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT WHETHER TO RAISE THIS IN THE UNITED NATIONS. HE HAS BEEN ON TOUR AND IS EXPECTED BACK IN GABORONE WITHIN THE HOUR. ON PIK BOTHA'S STATEMENT AFTER THE RAID THAT BOTSWANA HAD FAILED TO TAKE ACTION SINCE THEIR FEBRUARY MEETING, DR CHIEPE SAID THAT THEY HAD HAD NO INDICATION FROM THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT THEY WERE DISSATISFIED (AND WE KNOW FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT THE BATSWANA HAVE REMOVED A NUMBER OF SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEES WHOM THE SOUTH AFRICANS WANTED OUT). SHE SAID THAT IN FACT PIK BOTHA HAD WRITTEN TO HER ABOUT A WEEK AGO PROPOSING ANOTHER MEETING AND SUGGESTING DATES AND THAT ONLY YESTERDAY, THE DAY BEFORE THE RAID, HAD A DATE BEEN FIXED. DR CHIEPE ALSO MAINTAINED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD NOT SUBSTANTIATED WITH THEM THE ALLOCATION THAT 36 ACTS OF TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE HAD BEEN PLANNED AND EXECUTED FROM BOTSWANA. SHE RIDICULED THAT THE PLACING OF RESPONSIBILITY ON BOTSWANA WHEN SOME OF THE ATTACKERS HAD MANAGED TO THROUGH TO CAPE TOWN WITHOUT THE SOUTH AFRICANS THEMSELVES BEING ABLE TO DETECT THEM.

C O M M E N T

7. SO FAR WE HAVE SEEN ONLY A FEW OF THE NAMES OF THE DEAD

7. SO FAR WE HAVE SEEN ONLY A FEW OF THE NAMES OF THE DEAD AND INJURED. NONE OF THEM HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY US AS PEOPLE ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN LIST OF UNDESIRABLES, BUT I AM TRYING TO GET CONFIRMATION FROM THE BATSWANA. IF NONE OF THEM WERE, THERE IS A STRONG SUGGESTION THAT THIS WAS A REPRISAL RAID AND NOT A RAID ON TOP ANC TARGETS. THE RAID WILL ALSO HAVE THE EFFECT OF RESSURIZING THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT TO MOVE ALL SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEES OUT OF GABORONE.

JONES

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