

ADVANCE COPIES

22 14

SOUTHERN AFRICA

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

MR CIG MALLABY, CABINET OFFICE
PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

15.11.84

IMMEDIATE

RESTRICTED
FM PRETORIA 231145Z JULY 1985
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO. 141 OF 23 JULY 1985
INFO ROUTINE JOHANNESBURG

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MY TEL NO 138: SOUTH AFRICA - INTERNAL

SUMMARY.

1. UNREST CONTINUES, DESPITE A CRACK-DOWN BY POLICE AND THE ARMY. THE NEXT FEW DAYS COULD BE CRUCIAL IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE AUTHORITIES HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CONTROLLING THE SITUATION.

DETAIL.

2. UNREST HAS CONTINUED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF SOUTH AFRICA DESPITE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. NINE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED IN DISTURBANCES SINCE THE EMERGENCY CAME INTO EFFECT AND BY SUNDAY NIGHT 139 PEOPLE HAD BEEN DETAINED. FURTHER DETENTIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THEN. THE POLICE HOWEVER SAY THAT DURING THE LAST 24 HOURS THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS REPORTED HAS DECLINED.

3. WE THINK IT MUCH TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER THE EMERGENCY MEASURES HAVE HAD THE DESIRED EFFECT. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT FRESH TROUBLE IS BREWING, NOT ONLY IN THE TOWNSHIPS LISTED IN THE DECLARATION, BUT ALSO ELSEWHERE E.G. ATTERIDGEVILLE AND MAMELODI NEAR PRETORIA. THE WEEK-LONG CONSUMER BOYCOTT IS ALSO CAUSING SERIOUS CONCERN TO WHITE BUSINESSMEN IN PORT ELIZABETH.

4. THE STATE PRESIDENT, IN REJECTING A CALL BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, DR SLABBERT, TO RECONVENE PARLIAMENT, INDICATED THAT ACTION AND NOT TALK WAS NOW NEEDED. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE STATE PRESIDENT SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE STATE PRESIDENT "BELIEVES THAT WHAT IS NECESSARY AT THE MOMENT IS NOT MORE DEBATE, BUT INSTEAD ACTION TO BRING THE UNREST SITUATION UNDER CONTROL". SABC COMMENT HAS, HOWEVER, DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE STATE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT OF 20 JULY THAT "IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE SITUATION BE NORMALISED IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE CLIMATE FOR CONTINUED DIALOGUE IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL PEOPLE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS IS ENSURED".

5. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN AND THE MEDIA CONTINUE TO PLAY DOWN ANC RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECENT EVENTS IN THE TOWNSHIPS WHICH LED TO THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO BLAME THE ANC WOULD CLEARLY BE TANTAMOUNT TO ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE ANC HAD ACHIEVED CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN THEIR DECLARED DETERMINATION TO MAKE THE TOWNSHIPS UNGOVERNABLE.

6. THE ADDITIONAL POWERS AVAILABLE TO THE AUTHORITIES (MY TUR) INCLUDE AN IMPORTANT PROVISION WHICH GRANTS THEM INDEMNITY FROM ANY CLAIMS MADE AGAINST THEM FOR WRONGFUL ARREST, UNJUSTIFIED SEIZURE OF PROPERTY ETC. IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE FOR THE AUTHORITIES TO TAKE ACTION UNDER THE POWERS LISTED IN MY TUR IF THEY HAD TO CONTEND WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN PRESENTED THROUGH THE SOUTH AFRICAN COURTS.

7. THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS SO FAR HAD LITTLE EFFECT ON THE VALUE OF THE RAND, WHICH DECLINED ONLY marginally YESTERDAY AGAINST OTHER CURRENCIES. THE JOHANNESBURG STOCK EXCHANGE OVERALL INDEX RECEDED HOWEVER BY 3.6% AND THE INDUSTRIAL INDEX BY 2%. THE LATEST INFLATION FIGURE, ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY, INDICATED AN ANNUAL RATE OF 16.4%, BUT MOST ECONOMIC OBSERVERS SAY THAT THIS WAS AN EXPECTED PEAK AND THAT THE RATE SHOULD FROM NOW ON STEADILY DECLINE.

MOBERLY

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