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FM PRETORIA 091000Z AUG 85  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELNO 185 OF 09 AUG  
INFO ROUTINE JOHANNESBURG  
INFO SAVING DURBAN

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*Prime Minister.*

*N*  
*9/8.*

*[Handwritten signature]*

MY TELNO 180: SOUTH AFRICA: SITUATION REPORT ON UNREST  
SUMMARY

1. THE UNREST IN THE DURBAN TOWNSHIPS CONTINUED LAST NIGHT. REPORTS SUGGEST THAT IT INVOLVES A HIGH DEGREE OF HOOLIGANISM ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE UNDERLYING POLITICAL TENSIONS. THE GOVERNMENT HAVE GIVEN EXTENDED POWERS TO THE POLICE IN THE EASTERN CAPE AND EAST AND WEST RAND UNDER THE EMERGENCY REGULATIONS TO CONTROL THE ISSUE OF PETROL AND ORGANISATION OF SCHOOL BOYCOTTS.

DURBAN TENSION

2. UNREST IN THE TOWNSHIP AREAS AROUND DURBAN CONTINUED LAST NIGHT, WITH GANGS OF YOUTHS ROAMING AT LARGE AND DAMAGING VEHICLES AND PROPERTY. INDIAN TRADERS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN A PARTICULAR TARGET AND HAVE MOVED OUT OF THE INANDA TOWNSHIP. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN INCIDENTS IN THE ADJOINING RESIDENTIAL AREA OF PHOENIX INVOLVING ATTACKS BY BLACKS ON INDIANS. 22 PEOPLE HAVE DIED. THE POLICE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT 8 HAVE DIED IN INCIDENTS INVOLVING POLICE INTERVENTION. 300 INDIAN FAMILIES HAVE BEEN MADE HOMELESS.

3. REPORTS SUGGEST THAT THERE IS A HIGH LEVEL OF CRIMINALITY WITH LOOTING. THE UNDERLYING TENSIONS BETWEEN UDF AND INKATHA SUPPORTERS HAVE NOT COME PROMINENTLY TO THE SURFACE BUT THEY ARE A FACTOR IN AREAS SUCH AS THE BLACK TOWNSHIP OF UMLAZI WHICH IS WITHIN KWAZULU. WE HAVE ALSO HAD REPORTS THIS MORNING OF ATTACKS ON THE HOMES OF PROMINENT UDF LEADERS WHICH ARE BEING ATTRIBUTED BY THEM TO INKATHA SUPPORTERS. AT THIS STAGE WE ARE RELUCTANT TO ATTRIBUTE THE TROUBLES TOO SPECIFICALLY TO POLITICAL OR RACIAL MOTIVATION E.G. TRADITIONAL ZULU-INDIAN ENMITY.

4. THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE HAVE DRAFTED REINFORCEMENTS INTO THE AREA AND THE SADF ARE BEING USED IN A SUPPORT ROLE. THE POLICE APPEAR TO BE GENERALLY IN CONTROL AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS NOT YET SEEKING EMERGENCY POWERS FOR THE AREA.

5. THE POLICE BELIEVE THAT THE TENSION, WHICH IS OF A DIFFERENT TYPE TO THAT WHICH HAS CHARACTERISED UNREST ELSEWHERE, WILL BE

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*/BROUGHT*

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BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS BUT THESE ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS WILL BE UNWELCOME TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE POLICE WHO ARE ALREADY STRETCHED IN OTHER AREAS.

EXTRA POWERS FOR THE POLICE

6. POWERS OVER THE CONTROL OF PETROL SALES IN TOWNSHIPS AND MEASURES APPLICABLE TO CONTINUING SCHOOL BOYCOTTS WERE GRANTED TO THE POLICE BY A PROCLAMATION IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE YESTERDAY (8 AUGUST)(COPY BY BAG). THE PROCLAMATION GIVES THE POLICE IN THE EASTERN CAPE AND EAST AND WEST RAND SPECIFIC POWERS TO IMPOSE CURFEWS, PRECLUDE ENTRY TO TOWNSHIPS BY NON-RESIDENTS, BAN THE POSSESSION OF PETROL IN SPECIFIC CASES, MAKE GATHERINGS OF PUPILS OUTSIDE CLASSROOMS ILLEGAL AND RESTRICT PUPILS ACTIVITIES TO THOSE APPROVED BY SCHOOL STAFF. THE INTENTION APPEARS TO BE TO REINFORCE POWERS TO PERMIT THE POLICE TO TAKE FIRMER ACTION DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY AT ENDING CONTINUING SCHOOL BOYCOTTS AND VIOLENCE.

MOBERLY

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