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TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 327 OF 11 MAY  
INFO PRETORIA, MODUK

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MIPT : FALKLAND ISLANDS - ARMS SALES

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF SOUTH AFRICAN SPEAKING NOTES:

AN INTERNATIONAL ARMS BOYCOTT HAS BEEN IN FORCE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA FOR ALMOST TWO DECADES. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS RIGIDLY ADHERED TO THE ARMS BOYCOTT. SOUTH AFRICA MUST OF NECESSITY PROTECT ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SAFEGUARD ITS VITAL INTEREST. S IN VIEW OF THE GROWING THREAT WHICH SOVIET AGGRESSION POSES FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA AS A WHOLE, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT CANNOT AFFORD TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT WEAKEN ITS ABILITY TO RESIST SOVIET ENCROACHMENT. THE ANTI-SOUTH AFRICAN ARMS BOYCOTT HAS FORCED THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT A COURSES OF ACTION WHICH IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE CONTEMPLATED WERE IT NOT FOR THE BOYCOTT. IT IS OF DECISIVE IMPORTANCE FOR SOUTH AFRICA IN PRINCIPLE NOT TO AGREE TO ANY BOYCOTT MOVE. INDEED SUCH A STEP COULD IRREVOCABLY AFFECT SOUTH AFRICA'S CHANCES OF SURVIVAL. NEVERTHELESS, TO ENABLE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THIS MATTER THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO LEARN WHETHER THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO GUARANTEE THE SUPPLY OF DEFENCE EQUIPMENT AND OTHER STRATEGIC MATERIAL TO SOUTH AFRICA.

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FERGUSSON