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TELNO 1054

OF 271712Z NOVEMBER 85

INFO PRIORITY HARARE, PRETORIA, LUSAKA, DAKAR

HARARE TELNO 560 (NOT TO ALL): FRENCH SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

1. RAPHAEL SEEMS TO HAVE PLAGIARISED YESTERDAY'S GUARDIAN.
2. THE SUMMIT ON 11-13 DECEMBER IS THE ANNUAL FRANCO-AFRICAN EVENT (THE 16TH), TO WHICH MITTERRAND HAS REGULARLY INVITED DELEGATIONS FROM NON-FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES FOR THE LAST 4 YEARS. IT IS, HOWEVER, ABOVE ALL THE FAMILY REUNION OF THE FRANCOPHONES. THE LATTER HAVE PRIVATELY BEEN EXPRESSING SOME RESENTMENT FOR THE LAST 2 YEARS AT THE INCLUSION OF OTHERS, BOTH IN THE SUMMIT AND, (EVEN MORE SO), IN FRENCH AID PROGRAMMES.
3. THE SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION WILL AS USUAL INCLUDE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, CHAD AND WESTERN SAHARA, BUT SOUTHERN AFRICA ALSO SEEMS LIKELY TO BE A MAJOR TOPIC. ABDOU DILOUF OF SENEGAL, AS PRESIDENT OF THE OAU, HAS RECENTLY VISITED ALL THE FLS (EXCEPT MALAWI) AND DURING A STATE VISIT TO PARIS THIS WEEK, HAS BEEN LOBBYING IN FAVOUR OF A PROGRESSIVE SERIES OF SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. THE FRENCH HAVE THEREFORE INVITED ALL THE FLS TO ATTEND THE SUMMIT: THE QUAI SAY THAT SO FAR ONLY MOZAMBIQUE HAS ACCEPTED.
4. AS SEPARATELY REPORTED BY TELELETTER, THE QUAI EXPECT PRESIDENT MITTERRAND TO RAISE SOUTH AFRICA AT NEXT WEEK'S EUROPEAN COUNCIL, BUT WITHOUT PROPOSING SPECIFIC NEW EUROPEAN MEASURES. THERE IS, HOWEVER, ALWAYS A RISK OF A SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW NATIONAL MEASURES. WE SHALL REPORT ANY FURTHER ECHOES WE HEAR.
5. THE FRENCH HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN DISAPPOINTED BY THEIR COMMERCIAL ACHIEVEMENT IN ZIMBABWE SINCE INDEPENDENCE, LINKED PARTLY TO DELAYS IN NEGOTIATING A FINANCIAL PROTOCOL (MIXED CREDIT). A RENEWED EFFORT IN ONE OF THE MORE PROMISING MARKETS IN AFRICA MAY WELL BE ON THE CARDS.

FRETWELL

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 OF 270830Z NOVEMBER 85
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FRENCH SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

1. IN A REPORT FROM THEIR LONDON CORRESPONDENT, RAPHAEL, TODAY'S HERALD (27 NOVEMBER) REPORTS THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS INVITED THE LEADERS OF ZIMBABWE, ZAMBIA AND SEVEN OTHER AFRICAN STATES TO A 36 - NATION SUMMIT IN PARIS FROM 11-13 DECEMBER TO CONSIDER FURTHER MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. FROM THE ARTICLE IT APPEARS THAT ENGLISH AND PORTUGUESE SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO A REGULAR MEETING WITH FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN STATES.D

2. THE ARTICLE DESCRIBES T

HE FRENCH MOVE AS A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT BY FRANCE TO CIRCUMVENT BRITISH INFLUENCE AND SNATCH THE INITIATIVE AFTER THE CHOGM MEETING IN NASSAU. THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE FRENCH INTEND TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC LINKS WITH ENGLISH SPEAKING AFRICAN STATES AND THAT THEY ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PROMOTING JOINT INITIATIVES WITH ZIMBABWE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THIS IS THE FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF AN INITIATIVE OF THIS SORT, IT BEARS THE STAMP OF TYPICAL FRENCH OPPORTUNISM. HAVING PROVIDED THE BULK OF THE SADF'S OFFENSIVE COPABILITY, PARTICULARLY IN THE AIR, THE FRENCH HAVE NO SCRUPLES IN SEEKING TO EXPLOIT THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SCENE FOR THEIR SHORT-TERM COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL BENEFIT. GRATEFUL ANY CONFIRMATION OF THIS STORY.

MELHUIH

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