

ADVANCE COPIES

15

SOUTHERN AFRICA

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RESIDENT CLERK

MR CLG MALLABY , CABINET OFFICE

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

15.11.84

RESTRICTED

FM JOHANNESBURG

TO IMMEDIATE CAPE TOWN

TELNO 27

OF 051255Z MARCH 86

AND TO IMMEDIATE FCO, PRETORIA

ALEXANDRA FUNERALS: YOUR TELNO 129 TO FCO.

1. REEVE ATTENDED THE FUNERAL SERVICE AT THE ALEXANDRA STADIUM THIS MORNING. OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS REPRESENTED WERE: FRG, NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, AND US. THE US DECISION TO ATTEND WAS NOT TAKEN UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVED LATE AT THE PROCEEDINGS. THE PRESENCE OF DIPLOMATS WAS CAREFULLY NOTED BY THE FOREIGN PRESS.
  2. THE PROCEEDINGS THEMSELVES, WHICH LASTED FOR OVER FOUR HOURS, WERE ORDERLY IF NOISY. THE ALEXANDRA CIVIC ORGANISATION HAD RECRUITED SOME TWO HUNDRED MARSHALLS TO KEEP ORDER. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, NUMEROUS ANC BANNERS AND PLACARDS AND THE LOUDEST CHEERS WERE RESERVED FOR THE APPEARANCE OF A WREATH IN ANC COLOURS TO BE LAID AT THE FOOT OF THE SEVENTEEN COFFINS. (ACCORDING TO THE ORGANISERS, THERE ARE STILL THIRTEEN UNIDENTIFIED BODIES IN THE ALEXANDRA MORTUARY.)
  3. ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TOWNSHIP THERE WAS A MASSIVE SAP AND SADF PRESENCE. ARMoured VEHICLES WERE PLENTIFUL AND MOST OF THE RIOT POLICE SEEN PROMINENTLY CARRIED RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS.
- COMMENT.
4. ALTHOUGH THE FUNERAL SERVICE ITSELF PASSED RELATIVELY PEACEFULLY, THERE WAS AN ATMOSPHERE OF EXTREME TENSION CAUSED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE SECURITY FORCES AND IT MAY WELL BE THAT VIOLENCE WILL BREAK OUT LATER TODAY.

BRANT

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JDPOAN 0066

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