

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM PRETORIA

TO DESKBY 261000Z FCO

TELNO 103

OF 260600Z JUN 86

INFO IMMEDIATE THE HAGUE

INFO PRIORITY JOHANNESBURG, LUSAKA, HARARE, UKMIS NEW YORK,

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON

INFO SAVING CAPE TOWN CONSULATE

*Deere file***STATE OF EMERGENCY: SITREP**

SUMMARY

1. NO RELAXATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY IN SIGHT. NUMBER OF DETENTIONS AT CONTINUING HIGH LEVEL, WITH SOME NEW ARRESTS BUT A FEW RELEASES. STRONG PRESENCE OF SECURITY FORCES IN KEY TOWNSHIPS, PREVENTING MASS DEMONSTRATIONS AND RESULTING CLASHES. HOWEVER, DEATHS PROBABLY NOT MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE EMERGENCY. STRIKES IN RETAIL SECTOR AGAINST DETENTION OF UNION LEADERS. UNDERLYING TENSION HIGH, AND RETURN TO SCHOOL ON 1 JULY COULD LEAD TO CONFRONTATION. THREE FOREIGN JOURNALISTS EXPELLED.
2. PRESIDENT HAS APPROVED TWO TOUGH SECURITY BILLS, DESPITE OPPOSITION FROM INDIAN AND COLOURED PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBERS. PARLIAMENT HAS ALSO PASSED SOME REFORM BILLS.

DETAIL

3. IN VIEW OF DETENTIONS AND STRENGTHENED RESTRICTIONS ON MEDIA REPORTING AND ACCESS TO TOWNSHIPS, PICTURE NECESSARILY CONFUSED. BUT SUFFICIENT INFORMATION COMING TO LIGHT TO PROVIDE REASONABLY ACCURATE OVERALL IMPRESSION.

DETENTIONS

4. THE GOVERNMENT HAVE RELEASED NO DETAILS OF DETENTIONS. THE BEST ESTIMATES ARE THAT UP TO 3,000 HAVE BEEN DETAINED. MANY ACTIVISTS HAVE ALSO GONE TO GROUND. THOSE AFFECTED COVER A WIDE RANGE OF ORGANISATIONS - POLITICAL, COMMUNITY, CHURCH AND TRADE UNION. BUT THE PATTERN IS PATCHY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE WHOLE COSATU LEADERSHIP IN NORTHERN NATAL HAS BEEN DETAINED, WHILE OTHER AREAS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY UNSCATHED. NEW DETENTIONS ARE BEING MADE, BUT APPARENTLY AT A LOW RATE. (WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF A 600-STRONG CHURCH CONGREGATION BEING DETAINED IN GRAAF REINET (E. CAPE) LAST WEEK.)
5. THE GOVERNMENT HAS CLAIMED THAT SOME DETAINEES HAVE BEEN RELEASED, AND THAT MORE WILL FOLLOW AS POLICE INVESTIGATIONS PROCEED. AT PRESENT, APART FROM THE ELSIE RIVER INCIDENT (OUR TELNO 98), THERE ISNO MORE THAN A TRICKLE. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY PROMINENT ACTIVISTS WILL BE FREED AS YET.

UNREST

6. THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN IN ACTION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IN THE TOWNSHIPS, THEY HAVE MAINTAINED A STRONG PRESENCE TO CONTROL ACCESS AND SUPPRESS ANY FORM OF COLLECTIVE ACTIVITY. AS A RESULT, THE INCIDENCE OF DEMONSTRATIONS, PROTEST MEETINGS AND FUNERALS, AND THUS DIRECT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE SECURITY FORCES AND LARGE CROWDS, HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY REDUCED. NONETHELESS, TENSION REMAINS

CONFIDENTIAL*/HIGH*

CONFIDENTIAL

HIGH AND COULD EASILY ERUPT INTO LOCAL MOB VIOLENCE AT ANY TIME. THE NEXT FLASHPOINT MAY BE THE RETURN OF THE SCHOOLS ON 1 JULY, WHICH MAY GIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG ACTIVISTS TO REGROUP.

7. THE LEVEL OF UNREST-RELATED KILLINGS, MAINLY BLACK-ON-BLACK, DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE DIMINISHED. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ADMITTED TO ONLY A FEW DEATHS CAUSED BY SECURITY FORCES (INCLUDING A CHILD SHOT IN SOWETO), BUT IT SEEMS CERTAIN THAT MORE HAVE OCCURRED. NO SECURITY FORCE DEATHS HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

8. HOWEVER, YESTERDAY'S BOMBINGS IN JOHANNESBURG, COUPLED WITH THAT IN DURBAN LAST WEEK AND THE DISCOVERY OF TWO LANDMINES IN NORTHERN TRANSVAAL EARLIER THIS WEEK, WILL HAVE JOLTED ANY WHITE COMPLACENCY, AND WILL ONLY SERVE TO STRENGTHEN THE PREDOMINANT WHITE VIEW THAT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS FULLY JUSTIFIED.

STRIKES

9. THERE HAVE BEEN STRIKES BY BLACK WORKERS IN THE RETAIL SECTOR IN THE JOHANNESBURG REGION IN PROTEST AGAINST THE DETENTION OF THEIR UNION LEADERS. THIS HAS CAUSED BUSINESS DELEGATIONS TO PRESS MINISTERS FOR THE RELEASE OF UNION DETAINEES, BUT TO NO AVAIL. SO FAR, STRIKE ACTION IS CONFINED TO COMMERCIAL AND CATERING WORKERS (CCAW-USA), BUT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT OTHER TRADE UNIONS ARE BEGINNING TO REFORM AND MORE COORDINATED STRIKE ACTION MAY WELL MATERIALISE.

MEDIA RESTRICTIONS

10. THE WIDE-RANGING RESTRICTIONS ON REPORTING HAVE PREVENTED INDEPENDENT PRESS COVERAGE OF UNREST AND SECURITY FORCES' CONDUCT. THREE FOREIGN JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN EXPELLED (ONE AMERICAN, ONE ISRAELI AND ONE DUTCHMAN). ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS ARE NOW BEING CENSORED BY HAND IN BLACK INK COPY BY COPY.

PARLIAMENT

11. THE PFP HAVE MADE SOME USE OF PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE TO CRITICISE THE EMERGENCY, BUT PARLIAMENT WILL RISE ON 26 OR 27 JUNE AND THIS AVENUE WILL CLOSE UNTIL THE SPECIAL SESSION OPENS ON 18 AUGUST.

12. ON 24 JUNE, P W BOTHA SIGNED THE INTERNAL SECURITY AMENDMENT BILL (WHICH PROVIDES FOR DETENTION FOR 180 DAYS) AND THE PUBLIC SAFETY AMENDMENT BILL (WHICH ALLOWS A MINISTER RATHER THAN THE PRESIDENT TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ANY MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT). IT WAS THE REJECTION OF THESE BILLS BY THE INDIAN HOUSE OF DELEGATES AND THE COLOURED HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHICH FORCED THE GOVERNMENT TO RELY ON THE DECLARATION OF A NATIONAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE RUN UP TO THE SOWETO ANNIVERSARY. THE BILLS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL, THOUGH WITH A ONE-THIRD VOTE AGAINST. THE GOVERNMENT'S RAILROADING OF THE LEGISLATION WILL HAVE GIVEN FURTHER AMMUNITION TO THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT THE TRICAMERAL PARLIAMENT IS A CHARADE.

13. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUSHED THROUGH A NUMBER OF MEASURES IN ITS REFORM PROGRAMME, SUCH AS THE ABOLITION OF INFLUX CONTROL BILL, THE RESTORATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP BILL AND THE IDENTIFICATION BILL (WHICH ABOLISHES THE PASS LAWS). ALL THESE ARE LIKELY TO BE SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT AND COME INTO FORCE BY 1 JULY. HOWEVER, THEIR IMPACT HAS BEEN OVERSHADOWED BY THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE GAINED LITTLE CREDIT.

-2-
CONFIDENTIAL

/IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

IMMEDIATE OUTLOOK

14. THERE IS WIDESPREAD EXPECTATION, FOSTERED BY GOVERNMENT SOURCES, THAT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IS SET TO CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME, DESPITE THE TWO NEW SECURITY ACTS. LOCALISED OUTBURSTS SEEM BOUND TO OCCUR, PERHAPS ON AN INCREASING SCALE. IF SO, THE SECURITY FORCES WILL TAKE WHATEVER ACTION THEY CONSIDER NECESSARY.

SOLESBY

SOUTHERN AFRICA [COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]
STANDARD (PALACE) ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
SAFD SOUTHERN AFRICA
OADs
UND
NAD
ECDs
SOVIET D
MR REEVE
CABINET OFFICE

-3-
CONFIDENTIAL