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FM CANBERRA

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 397

OF 030245Z JULY 86

INFO ROUTINE NEW DELHI, LUSAKA, HARARE, NASSAU, OTTAWA, LAGOS

INFO ROUTINE CAPE TOWN, PRETORIA, BONN, PARIS, TOKYO

MY TELNO 389

AUSTRALIAN POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA

SUMMARY

1. CABINET DECIDE ON A RANGE OF MEASURES BUT LEAVE IT UP TO MR HAWKE WHEN TO ANNOUNCE THEM. NO ACTION LIKELY BEFORE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN LONDON, BUT PRESSURE AT NEXT WEEK'S ALP CONFERENCE COULD LEAD TO AN EARLIER ANNOUNCEMENT.

DETAIL

2. I HAVE NOW BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN FROM MCINNES (DEP SEC DPMC) AND ACCOUNT OF WHAT WAS DECIDED AT MONDAY'S CABINET MEETING. WE HAVE ALSO HAD A DISCUSSION WITH THE HEAD OF DFA SOUTHERN AFRICA SECTION. MINISTERS THEMSELVES ARE OUT OF TOWN PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S ALP CONFERENCE IN HOBART. MCINNES SAID THAT WHAT HAD APPEARED IN THE PRESS WAS REASONABLY ACCURATE. CABINET HAD ENDORSED A RANGE OF MEASURES INCLUDING BANS ON SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS, ON AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS AND ON PROMOTION OF TOURISM AND NEW INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. DFA ADDED THAT CABINET HAD ALSO APPROVED THE STEPPING UP OF LINKS WITH THE ANC AND AN INCREASED PROGRAMME OF TRAINING FOR BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS, BUT HAD NOT APPROVED WITHDRAWAL OF VISA FACILITIES FOR SOUTH AFRICANS WISHING TO VISIT AUSTRALIA.

4. ACCORDING TO MCINNES CABINET HAD RESOLVED TO LEAVE IT TO MR HAWKE'S DISCRETION TO ANNOUNCE WHEN THE SANCTIONS WOULD BE IMPOSED AFTER THE LONDON MEETING IN EARLY AUGUST. THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO ACT UNILATERALLY BEFORE THEN BUT IT WAS POSSIBLE, THOUGH UNLIKELY, THAT MR HAWKE MIGHT FEEL A NEED TO SATISFY PARTY DEMANDS FOR SOME IMMEDIATE ACTION. DFA SUGGESTED THAT, IN THE LATTER EVENT, THE MOST LIKELY MEASURES TO BE ANNOUNCED EARLY WOULD BE THE SUSPENSION OF SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS SERVICES AND AN INCREASE IN CONTACT WITH THE ANC, POSSIBLY INVOLVING AN INVITATION FOR OLIVER TAMBO TO VISIT AUSTRALIA.

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5. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SUGGESTIONS IN THE PRESS THAT THE ALP CONFERENCE MIGHT DEBATE A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR BRITAIN'S EXPULSION FROM THE COMMONWEALTH MCINNES SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT SUCH A RESOLUTION WOULD BE BROUGHT FORWARD AND THAT IT WAS CERTAINLY NOT PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO CALL FOR BRITAIN'S EXPULSION.

DOUGAL

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