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FM PRETORIA

TO DD 090500Z LUSAKA

TELNO 029

OF 081545Z JULY 86

AND TO IMMEDIATE FCO LONDON

INFO ROUTINE JOHANNESBURG, HARARE, UKMIS NEW YORK

INFO SAVING CAPETOWN CONSULATE, DURBAN

OUR TELNO 103 : SITREP : INTERNAL SITUATION.

SUMMARY.

1. FURTHER BOMB ATTACKS AGAINST CIVILIANS IN WHITE AREAS HAVE CAUSED SIGNIFICANT CASUALTIES. NO-ONE HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY BUT THE GOVERNMENT INSIST, PROBABLY RIGHTLY SO, THAT THE ANC IS THE PERPETRATOR. THEY HAVE PROVOKED A BITTER REACTION AMONGST MOST OF THE WHITE COMMUNITY AND FURTHER CONSOLIDATED MAJORITY WHITE OPINION IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EMERGENCY MEASURES AND AGAINST POLITICAL CONCESSIONS TO THE ANC.

2. THE STATE OF EMERGENCY CONTINUES TO BE GENERALLY EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING LARGE-SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS AND CLASHES, AND THE OVERALL LEVEL OF UNREST INCIDENTS PROBABLY REMAINS LOWER THAN BEFORE THE EMERGENCY. BUT GOVERNMENT CLAIMS OF A LOWER NUMBER OF DEATHS ARE QUESTIONABLE. STRIKES AGAINST DETENTIONS CONTINUE IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES. THE EMERGENCY RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN FURTHER TIGHTENED PROBABLY IN PREPARATION FOR THE RETURN TO SCHOOL ON 14 JULY AND ALSO RUMOURED PREPARATIONS BY COSATU FOR A GENERAL STRIKE ON THAT DAY.

DETAIL.

BOMB INCIDENTS.

3. ATTACKS ON WHITE 'SOFT TARGETS' CONTINUE TO MOUNT. A TOTAL OF 12 BOMB BLASTS, INCLUDING LANDMINE EXPLOSIONS, HAVE OCCURRED IN WHITE AREAS SINCE THE EMERGENCY WAS DECLARED ON 12 JUNE. IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS 27 PEOPLE (WHITE AND BLACK) HAVE BEEN INJURED IN THREE BLASTS IN CENTRAL JOHANNESBURG. 20 PEOPLE (INCLUDING BLACKS) WERE INJURED OUTSIDE A PRETORIA SUPERMARKET ON 4 JULY. A SCHOOLBOY WAS ALSO SERIOUSLY INJURED WHEN A BOMB EXPLODED IN QUEENSTOWN ON 28 JUNE.

4. TWO POLICE PERSONNEL WERE INJURED WHEN AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE CAUSED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO MOWBRAY POLICE STATION IN CAPETOWN ON 3 JULY. TWO BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN DURBAN ON 30 JUNE DAMAGED A WATER PIPELINE.

5. COMMENTING ON THE BOMB ATTACKS (2JULY) BISHOP TUTU CONDEMNED 'SUCH ACTS OF TERRORISM VEHEMENTLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY'.

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UNREST.

6. FOLLOWING THE DEATHS OF NINE PEOPLE IN UNREST INCIDENTS OVER THE PAST WEEKEND, INCLUDING FIVE EAST RAND DEVELOPMENT BOARD EMPLOYEES KILLED BY MEN ARMED WITH AK47 RIFLES (TWO WERE SUBSEQUENTLY SHOT DEAD BY POLICE), 107 PEOPLE ARE NOW REPORTED TO HAVE DIED SINCE THE EMERGENCY BEGAN. THE BIGGEST SINGLE DEATH TOLL IN THE PAST TEN DAYS WAS 10 PEOPLE KILLED IN BOPHUTHATSWANA WHEN A VEHICLE BLEW UP , REPORTEDLY CAUSED BY EXPLOSIVE DEVICES.
7. THE BUREAU OF INFORMATION CLAIMS A STEADY DECREASE IN THE LEVEL OF UNREST. ACCORDING TO THEM, DURING THE PAST WEEK A DAILY AVERAGE OF 44 UNREST RELATED INCIDENTS OCCURRED, A DECREASE OF SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT COMPARED WITH THE AVERAGE IN MAY. THIS ALMOST CERTAINLY UNDERSTATES THE UNREST IN THE TOWNSHIPS AND RURAL AREAS ALIKE, BUT THE OVERALL LEVEL IS PROBABLY LOWER THAN BEFORE THE EMERGENCY. THE BUREAU'S CURRENT AVERAGE DEATHS PER DAY FIGURE OF 4.3 COMPARED WITH 7.3 DURING THE EMERGENCY'S FIRST WEEK AND 5.1 IN MAY IS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN THE ACTUAL NUMBER.
8. UNDER THE STATE OF EMERGENCY A NUMBER OF POLITICAL AND STUDENT GROUPS HAVE BEEN BANNED FROM HOLDING INDOOR MEETINGS (OUTDOOR ONES WERE ALREADY PRESCRIBED) OVER A WIDE AREA. THE MAIN BLACK TRADE UNION FEDERATION , COSATU, AS WELL AS THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS AND OTHER TRADE UNIONS HAVE BEEN SIMILARLY RESTRAINED IN JOHANNESBURG AND ELSEWHERE.

DETENTIONS.

9. SOME MONITORING GROUPS CONSIDER THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DETAINEES PROBABLY REMAINS AROUND 3,000 BUT THE ACTUAL TOTAL MAY BE MUCH HIGHER. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN A TRICKLE OF RELEASES, ARRESTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS CONTINUE. ZWELAKHE SISULU, THE EDITOR OF NEW NATION AND SON OF WALTER SISULU, WAS DETAINED ON 27 JUNE. AMONGST OTHERS DETAINED IN THE PAST TWO OR THREE WEEKS ARE FIVE BLACK SASH LADIES.
10. A BUREAU OF INFORMATION SPOKESMAN HAS STATED THAT CHARGES, INCLUDING MURDER, ARSON AND ASSAULT , ARE BEING BROUGHT AGAINST 780 EMERGENCY DETAINEES.

TRADE UNIONS.

11. ACCORDING TO THE INDEPENDENT LABOUR MONITORING GROUP 218 UNION LEADERS WERE STILL IN DETENTION LAST WEEK . THE STRIKES IN PROTEST AGAINST DETENTIONS OF UNION LEADERS HAVE CEASED IN THE RETAIL TRADE, BUT BROKEN OUT IN THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND SOME MINES. COSATU HELD A CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 1 JULY AT WHICH IT GAVE EMPLOYERS A SHORT DEADLINE TO MEET A NUMBER OF TRADE UNION AND POLITICAL DEMANDS, WITH A WARNING THAT COSATU WOULD OTHERWISE ' ' PROCEED TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES ' '. THERE ARE RUMOURS OF CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR A GENERAL STRIKE ON 14 JULY.

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BANNINGS

12. WINNIE MANDELA'S NAME WAS NOT INCLUDED AMONGST THOSE LISTED AS BANNED PEOPLE UNDER SECTIONS 16 AND 23 OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT WHEN THE NEW CONSOLIDATED LIST WAS GAZETTED ON 4 JULY.

SCHOOLS

13. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING HAS ANNOUNCED THAT TOUGH SECURITY MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL BLACK SCHOOLS WHEN THEY REOPEN ON 14 JULY (POSTPONED FROM 1 JULY). THESE INCLUDE IDENTITY CARDS FOR ALL PUPILS.

PRESS

14. BUREAU OF INFORMATION BRIEFINGS REMAIN THE ONLY READY SOURCE OF UNREST INFORMATION. RESTRICTIONS ON MEDIA COVERAGE ARE AS SEVERE AS EVER. A WEST GERMAN ARD TELEVISION CORRESPONDENT WAS EXPELLED, THE FOURTH JOURNALIST SINCE THE EMERGENCY.

REFORM PROGRAMME

15. FOLLOWING ON THE REFORM LEGISLATION OF THE RECENTLY ENDED PARLIAMENTARY SESSION, THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT ITS LONG-AWAITED REPORT ON THE GROUP AREAS AND SEPARATE AMENITIES ACTS TO THE GOVERNMENT PRIOR TO THE NATIONAL PARTY FEDERAL CONGRESS ON 12-13 AUGUST.

IMMEDIATE OUTLOOK

16. THERE IS NO END IN SIGHT FOR THE STATE OF EMERGENCY WHICH IS WIDELY EXPECTED TO REMAIN FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME. THE NEXT POSSIBLE FLASHPOINT IS 14 JULY WHEN THERE COULD BE A COMBINATION OF A RETURN TO SCHOOL AND COSATU-LED GENERAL STRIKE. FEARS AMONG THE WHITE COMMUNITY ARE CONCENTRATED MAINLY ON THE LIKELIHOOD OF FURTHER BOMBINGS AGAINST CIVILIANS IN WHITE AREAS.

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One woman's view of SA

By Violet Johnstone

IN THE two weeks that Wendy Ackerman has accompanied her husband on business in America and Europe, ending in London, she has sometimes lied when questioned about where she comes from — yet she is an honest, proud and loyal South African. Just to get a bit of peace and quiet, when asked, she would name the last place she had been to, exhausted with having to fight to explain herself.



Wendy Ackerman: desire to put the record straight

English Academy, she went to the township in Soweto, taught in schools and was involved in running an experimental course for teachers to upgrade their English.

"We had to use wind-up gramophones as the houses had no electricity, and the teachers would listen to the records to improve their English pronunciation."

She ran a drama festival for black schools in the Transvaal to which children from schools as far away as 600 to 700 miles would come to compete.

One of the most moving experiences of listening to Shakespeare she has ever had was in a church in Soweto where Juliet and Romeo acted the balcony scene: she in the pulpit, wearing her sister's wedding dress, he, down below, wearing his mother's black tights and his sister's black blouse. "These children had amazing feeling for the music of the language," says Mrs Ackerman.

That was in the Sixties, since when the Ackermans have moved back to Cape Town. "I don't know that I would be welcome in Soweto any longer; the colour of my face is against me," she says.

As her husband was busy building up his newly-acquired chain of Pick 'n' Pay supermarkets, she, by now the mother of four, got involved in running a nursery school in a black township in Cape Town.

The '76 riots stopped this voluntary work, and Wendy then devoted all her time to her husband's supermarket chain, taking over the direction of the housing for staff, particularly weekly paid staff. "I had people coming to me all the time saying, 'Please help us find a house.' Well, there were no houses to be found, so we had to take to building them."

She had to find ways round the maze of appalling regulations. The barrier to black people owning their own houses, for example, was eventually broken down by the creation of the Urban Foundation, of which her husband is a founder member.

Wendy's first housing scheme was in Soweto, with 35 houses for which the company helps to subsidise employees' mortgage repayments. Houses outside Durban and now "in a lovely township" in the Western Cape have followed.

and has fought many issues, the Group Areas Act, in particular, all her adult life.

"Because the Government has its attitude, you cannot tar the whole nation with that point of view. There are lots and lots of liberal-thinking whites and blacks in South Africa who want an integrated society, who want to live and work together very happily, and we can and will."

The Ackermans met in Cape Town when she was recruited as a volunteer teacher in one of a group of 10 night schools for blacks founded by Raymond on the Cape Peninsula. After their marriage they moved to Johannesburg, and, through the

As liaison director for personnel in a company with 20,000 employees, and also in charge of the company's bursary scheme to help educate both employees and their children, Wendy Ackerman copes with many different problems. Forty-one per cent of the company's management is black, and she speaks proudly of one of the occasions when they brazenly broke the law.

"We appointed a black manager in a white area, in a store which was opposite the Prime Minister's residence. Cabinet ministers lived all around and their wives would shop in the supermarket. When my husband met Vorster 18 months after the appointment and talked to him about it, the Prime Minister replied: "I am very aware of this and want you to go on."

The company's policy of integration has made it difficult for some blacks, she points out. "It's not easy for them to work in an integrated society during the day and return to a black society at night. When there are troubles our managers are felt to be sell-outs to the whites and are pressured by their community."

She speaks angrily of the television report which stated that you rarely see black and white children playing together in South Africa.

"This is rubbish. My cook's little girl, who is black, goes to a white school and comes home with blonde, blue-eyed girlfriends to play. I have taken black and coloured children with us on holiday. We are always a mixed group around our table, though I'm not saying that everybody lives like this."

Her immediate hopes are that the state of emergency ends quickly and the Press ban is lifted; that the Government gets off its high horse, saying it won't talk to the African National Congress unless it forswears violence; that the two sides meet and talk, and come to some sort of solution to the voting problems, perhaps working towards a confederation system. As for sanctions, she is no political scientist, says Wendy Ackerman, but in her opinion they would turn South Africa into another Ethiopia.

NEFF GAS OVENS

MODELS 2031/11 LHECSG, 2051/31 LHECSG, 2071/41 LHECSG

An important announcement for anyone who has purchased a Neff Gas Oven, model number 2031/11 LHECSG, 2051/31 LHECSG, 2071/41 LHECSG, within the last twelve months.

Although there is no immediate cause for concern, long-term testing in our laboratories has identified a possibility of a component failure on the Neff Gas Oven models listed above.

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