

2. Secretary of State

GRS 430

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FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE AIRBORNE DESKBY 111900Z

MAPUTO TELNO 67: SECRETARY OF STATE'S MISSION

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S MISSION BY THE GOVERNMENT THIS WEEK. THE LAST MINISTERIAL STATEMENT WHICH BY IMPLICATION TOOK A HARD LINE ABOUT THE VISIT WAS THE SPEECH ON 3 JULY BY PIK BOTHA REPORTED IN MY TELNO 130. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MOST MINISTERS ARE STILL AWAY FROM THEIR DESKS TAKING THE USUAL BREAK AFTER THE END OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION. BUT THE GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN PART OF THE MISSION IS ALREADY EVIDENT FROM THEIR HANDLING OF DATES FOR THE VISIT, ALTHOUGH THE UNSOLICITED OFFER OF TWO MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT WAS PERHAPS DESIGNED TO BE HELPFUL. WE MAY LEARN MORE WHEN FERGUSSON SEES PIK BOTHA ON MONDAY AFTERNOON (14 JULY).
2. EARLIER THIS WEEK THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOLD ME THAT THERE WAS A STRONG FEELING AMONG MINISTERS THAT WHATEVER THE PRICE BEING DEMANDED BY THE WEST FOR CALLING OFF THREATENED SANCTIONS IT WOULD BE TOO HIGH. IN ANY CASE, THE PRICE REQUIRED TODAY WAS LIABLE TO BE RAISED TOMORROW. 'THE GOALPOSTS ARE CONTINUALLY BEING MOVED'. IN THAT CASE SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT AS WELL ACCEPT THE INEVITABILITY OF SANCTIONS, WHILE PREPARING CONTINGENCY PLANS AGAINST THEM. KILLEN ADDED THAT MINISTERS WERE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALONE BE PRESSED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. WHAT ABOUT OTHER PARTIES TO A POSSIBLE DIALOGUE? OUR WILLINGNESS TO URGE THE ANC TO ABANDON VIOLENCE HAD HOWEVER GONE DOWN WELL HERE.
3. I BELIEVE WE ARE RIGHT TO ASSUME THAT KILLEN'S REMARKS INDEED REPRESENT GOVERNMENT THINKING. HIS OWN MINISTER'S OURSPOKEN REMARKS LAST WEEK AGAINST FOREIGN PRESSURES ALSO CLEARLY REFLECT THE PREVAILING MOOD IN THE GOVERNMENT. THE LINE TAKEN THIS WEEK BY KAUNDA AND MUGABE WILL HAVE COME AS NO SURPRISE TO THEM. BUT IT WILL HAVE REINFORCED THE GOVERNMENT HERE IN THEIR CONVICTION THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S MISSION IS UNLIKELY TO ACHIEVE A POSITIVE RESULT. ON THE CONTRARY, THE FACT THAT THERE IS NO SIGN WHATSOEVER OF GIVE ON THE PART OF ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE (OR INDEED THE ANC) WILL MAKE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ALL THE MORE DETERMINED NOT TO BE THE ONLY ONES TO YIELD TO PRESSURE FROM OUTSIDE.

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4. SO I EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE AWAITING SIR G HOWE'S ARRIVAL HERE SCEPTICALLY COUPLED WITH A CERTAIN DEGREE OF PUZZLEMENT AS TO WHAT HE MAY HAVE TO SAY TO THEM. I DOUBT WHETHER THE 5 POINTS DEPLOYED BY HIM PUBLICLY THIS WEEK, BALANCED AS THEY ARE, WILL HAVE BROUGHT THEM MUCH COMFORT IN THEIR PRESENT MOOD. IF ALL THE SPECULATION ABOUT THE APPROACH OF FURTHER SANCTIONS IS BEGINNING TO GIVE THEM SECOND THOUGHTS, THEY ARE NOT GIVING ANY HINT OF IT. ALL THE SIGNS ARE THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY WEIGHED THIS AND WILL TELL HIM THEY HAVE DECIDED NEVERTHELESS TO STICK TO THEIR COURSE.
5. SEE MIFT FOR PRESS REACTIONS.

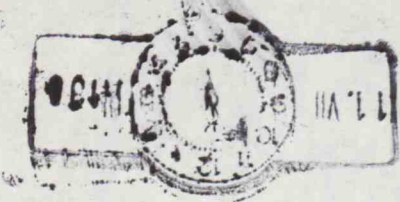
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