

RESTRICTED

GRS 419

RESTRICTED
FM PRETORIA
TO PRIORITY FCOLN
TELNO 252
OF 180645Z AUG 86
INFO ROUTINE JOHANNESBURG, HARARE, LUSAKA
INFO SAVING CAPETOWN CONSULATE, DURBAN

RESUMED PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

SUMMARY.

1. THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION RESUMES ON 18 AUGUST AND IS EXPECTED TO LAST ABOUT SIX WEEKS. LEGISLATION COULD INCLUDE A NATIONAL COUNCIL BILL TO INVOLVE BLACKS IN CENTRAL DECISION-MAKING. THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO REPORT ON THE GROUP AREAS ACT.

DETAIL.

2. THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION WHICH WAS ADJOURNED ON 25 JUNE RESUMES IN CAPETOWN ON 18 AUGUST. IT IS EXPECTED TO LAST ABOUT 6 WEEKS, BUT COULD BE SHORTER. 27 SEPTEMBER SEEMS THE MOST LIKELY CLOSING DATE, AS THE THREE-DAY CAPE NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS IN EAST LONDON (THE LAST OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES) IS DUE TO BEGIN ON 29 SEPTEMBER.

3. THE EXTENDED SESSION, AN UNUSUAL EVENT, WAS NECESSITATED BY A PARTICULARLY HEAVY PROGRAMME OF LEGISLATION THIS YEAR. SOME IMPORTANT BILLS WERE TABLED ONLY TWO OR THREE WEEKS BEFORE PARLIAMENT WAS DUE TO RISE AT THE END OF JUNE. ALTHOUGH MANY IMPORTANT REFORMIST MEASURES WERE PUSHED THROUGH, A RANGE OF OTHER LEGISLATION HAD TO BE HELD OVER.

4. THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY IS EXPECTED TO CONSIDER AT AN EARLY STAGE THE JOINT EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY FOR KWAZULU AND NATAL BILL, WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE COLOURED AND INDIAN HOUSES BEFORE THE RECESS. ALL THREE HOUSES SHOULD ALSO BE TAKING A BILL PROVIDING FOR DEREGULATION OF TRADE PRACTICES, WHICH PROVED CONTROVERSIAL IN STANDING COMMITTEE.

RESTRICTED

/5.

RESTRICTED

5. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IS THE NATIONAL COUNCIL CONCEPT ENDORSED AT THE FEDERAL CONGRESS IN DURBAN ON 13 AUGUST. A DRAFT BILL PROVIDING FOR BLACK PARTICIPATION IN CENTRAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES WAS PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT IN MAY. IT ATTRACTED LARGELY ADVERSE COMMENT. THE GOVERNMENT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE HAD TO REDRAFT IT, AND IT MIGHT NOT BE TABLED UNTIL LATER IN THE EXTENDED SESSION, IF AT ALL.

6. THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO PRESENT ITS LONG-AWAITED REPORT ON THE GROUP AREAS AND SEPARATE AMENITIES ACTS IN SEPTEMBER. BUT LEGISLATION FLOWING FROM THE REPORT IS UNLIKELY BEFORE THE NEXT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION BEGINNING AT THE END OF JANUARY. THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL COULD ALSO REPORT ON ITS OWN TRANSFORMATION INTO A BODY INCLUDING BLACK MEMBERS, AN IDEA FIRST AIRED BY PRESIDENT BOTHA IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

SOLESBY

YYYY

POHPAN 7223

SOUTHERN AFRICA

STANDARD (PALACE)

SAFD

OADs

UNC

NAD

ECDs

SOVIET D

MR REEVE

CABINET OFFICE

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

SOUTHERN AFRICA

-2-

RESTRICTED