

GR 200
UNCLASSIFIED
FM NAIROBI 171300Z JUNE 1981
TO PRIORITY F.C.O.
TELEGRAM NO.312 OF 17 JUNE 1981
INFO PRIORITY TO WELLINGTON AND CANBERRA.

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OAU : SPRING BOX TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE AFRICAN MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMONWEALTH ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT YESTERDAY EVENING:

"THE FOREIGN MINISTERS, DEEPLY CONCERNED AT THE PROPOSED SOUTH AFRICAN SPRINGBOK RUGBY TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND IN JULY 1981, MET TODAY IN NAIROBI AND REITERATED THEIR GOVERNMENTS' CALL TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT TO TAKE EVERY NECESSARY STEP TO ENSURE THE CANCELLATION OF THE TOUR. THEY AFFIRMED THAT THE TOUR WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF THE GLENEAGLES AGREEMENT OF JUNE 1977, AN INTERNATIONAL DECLARATION AGAINST APARTHEID IN SPORTS, AS WELL AS THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE OAU AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS RECALLED THE RACIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA WAS INCREASINGLY USING SPORT TO BREAK AWAY FROM ITS INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION. IT THEREFORE ATTACHED GREAT POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO ITS RUGBY FOOTBALL CONTACTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE INVOLVING NEW ZEALAND. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS EMPHASISED THAT THE TOUR, IF UNDERTAKEN, WOULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE THE HOLDING OF BOTH THE FORTHCOMING COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING IN AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, LATER THIS YEAR AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN 1982 IN BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA".

WILLIAMS

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NEWS D
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PS/MR RIDLEY
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
LORD NG, LENNOX
SIR E YOUDE
MR DAY
SIR L ALLINSON
MR DONALD

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED