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FM DAKAR

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 108

OF 091630Z JULY 87

INFO PRIORITY CAPETOWN PRETORIA, JOHANNESBURG, LUSAKA, ACCRA

MY TELNO 105: ANC/AFR/TRANER MEETING

SUMMARY

1. CONFERENCE OFF TO A GOOD START. SHORT NON-POLEMIC SPEECHES BY MBEKE, SLABBERT, MADAME MITTERRAND AND ^{M1}LESS SO, BY PRESIDENT DIOUF.

DETAIL

2. DIOUF OPENED THE CONFERENCE AT 10.15 ON 9 JULY. MBEKE SPOKE FIRST. THE ESSENTIAL PROBLEM WAS TO END APARTHEID WITH THE MINIMUM DELAY. THEY HAD TO BE THEIR OWN LIBERATORS TO TURN SOUTH AFRICA INTO A UNITED, DEMOCRATIC NON-RACIAL COUNTRY. THE SUCCESS OF THE MEETING WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT THOSE INVOLVED DID ON THEIR RETURN. THE ANC WAS COMMITTED TO BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME. IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WHITES SHOULD JOIN. THOSE PRESENT HAD TAKEN SUCH A DECISION. THE MORE THAT FOLLOWED THE FASTER PROGRESS WOULD BE.

3. SLABBERT SAID THAT THEY WERE HERE NOT JUST TO TALK TO SOUTH AFRICANS IN EXILE BUT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AFRICA. WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS WHO REJECTED APARTHEID COULD BE INVOLVED IN DISMANTLING IT. THIS WAS UDASA'S FIRST MAJOR SEMINAR OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA. DELEGATES WERE NOT FROM ANY SINGLE PARTY AND UDASA DID NOT SPEAK FOR ALL DELEGATES. BUT ALL PRESENT RECOGNISED THAT THE ANC HAD A CRUCIAL PART TO PLAY IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS. THE MEETING WAS NOT A NEGOTIATION AND IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO OVER-ESTIMATE WHAT MIGHT COME OUT OF IT. HE HOPED IT WOULD DISPEL MYTHS ABOUT THE TWO SIDES AND SHOW WHAT AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT. SOME ANC MEMBERS SUPPORTED DOCTRINES WHICH WERE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. HE WANTED TO LEARN. AFRICA HAD SPECIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND HE WAS GLAD THE WAS TAKING PLACE ON AFRICAN SOIL. IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY WERE PART OF AFRICA AND NOT EUROPE.

4. MME MITTERRAND REFERRED TO HER VISIT TO SENEGAL A YEAR AGO WHEN LAUNCHING FRANCE LIBERTE SHE HAD SUPPORTED UDASA. SINCE THEN FRANCE LIBERTE HAD LAUNCHED SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN SUPPORT OF PEACE AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES. THE INITIATIVE TO HOLD THE PRESENT MEETING WAS PART OF AN IRREVERSIBLE PROCESS. LIFE AND LIBERTY WERE INDISSOCIABLE. SENEGAL, THE HOST COUNTRY, PROVIDED AN EXAMPLE OF DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES IN ACTION.

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5. PRESIDENT DIOUF SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT THE INIQUITIES OF APARTHEID (THE CRIME OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY). THERE WAS STRONG AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR ANTI-APARTHEID MEASURES INCLUDING GLOBAL ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WHICH WERE THE LAST PEACEFUL FORM OF PRESSURE. UNLESS THINGS CHANGED THERE WOULD BE CIVIL WAR. RECENT SO-CALLED IMPROVEMENTS INTRODUCED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WERE A SNARE AND DELUSION BUT DID NOT DECEIVE THOSE HERE. THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA WAS NOT A EAST-WEST ISSUE BUT A NATIONALIST STRUGGLE. THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN BROUGHT HOME TO HIM WHEN HE VISITED THE FRONT LINE STATES AS PRESIDENT OF THE OAU IN 1985. SENEGAL INTENDED TO CREATE AN INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON SOUTH AFRICA WHICH WOULD BE ATTACHED TO A SENEGALESE ORGANISATION.

COMMENT

6. DIOUF'S ADDRESS WAS LONGER AND TOUGHER THAN THE OTHERS. HE MAY HAVE HAD HIS EYE ON HIS WIDER AFRICAN AUDIENCE BUT THE EFFECT WAS OUT OF TUNE WITH WHAT WENT BEFORE. HE WAS STILL CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS IN FAVOUR OF VIOLENCE AS A MEANS OF SOLVING THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION.

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