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CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO
TO DESKBY 181830Z KINGSTON
TELNO 247
OF 181739Z JULY 87
INFO DESKBY 181830Z DAKAR, WASHINGTON
INFO DESKBY 190900Z CAPETOWN, PRETORIA, BONN
INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS

FOR PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY: ATTENTION MR POWELL
MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DIOUF TO THE PRIME MINISTER:
AFRIKANER/ANC MEETING

1. WE ARE REPEATING TO YOU DESKBY DAKAR TELNO 114 CONVEYING A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DIOUF ASKING THE PRIME MINISTER TO INTERVENE WITH PRESIDENT BOTHA OVER THE SAFETY OF THE (IDASA GROUP) AFRIKANER DELEGATION WHEN THEY RETURN FROM DAKAR TO SOUTH AFRICA.
2. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO OUR EMBASSY AT CAPE TOWN (TELECON HUMFREY/GRIFFITHS) WHO SEE NO IMMEDIATE CAUSE FOR ALARM ABOUT THE GROUP'S SAFETY. THE GROUP ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE BACK IN SOUTH AFRICA AT 1000 ON TUESDAY 21 JULY. THEIR LEADER, VAN ZYL SLABBERT, WILL RETURN SEPARATELY IN EARLY AUGUST. THERE ARE LIKELY TO BE WHITE DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE AIRPORT. (THE EXTREME RIGHT WING AWB HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL DEMONSTRATE AND THE EVEN MORE EXTREME BBB HAVE MADE THREATS AGAINST THE GROUP.) BUT THERE IS NO REASON TO EXPECT THE POLICE WILL NOT KEEP SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS UNDER CONTROL.
3. THE GENERAL VIEW IS THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SAY NOTHING PUBLICLY ABOUT THE GROUP'S MEETING WITH THE ANC IN DAKAR. THIS TACTIC HAS BEEN POLITICALLY SUCCESSFUL FOR THEM SO FAR. IN DUE COURSE THEY MAY INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO CUT OFF FUNDING FOR IDASA. THE NATIONAL PARTY IS ALSO LIKELY TO MAKE CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL CAPITAL OUT OF THE VISIT WHEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT RECONVENES ON MONDAY WEEK. TWO OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP PETER GASTROW AND PIERRE CRONJE ARE PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY MPS AND THIS WILL BE USED FOR POLITICAL POINT SCORING OFF THE PFP. AT THE SAME TIME IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE QUIETLY INTERESTED TO LEARN FROM THE GROUP WHAT TRANSPIRED DURING THEIR TALKS WITH THE ANC.
4. NOBODY EXPECTS THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE CRIMINAL ACTION AGAINST THE GROUP. SO FAR IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THE GROUP HAS SAID ANYTHING THAT INFRINGES EXISTING SECURITY LEGISLATION. THE GOVERNMENT WILL OF COURSE MONITOR WHAT THE GROUP SAY ON THEIR RETURN PARTICULARLY AT THEIR ARRIVAL PRESS CONFERENCE.
5. WE WILL MAKE URGENT ENQUIRIES ON MONDAY TO SEE WHAT THE US AND GERMAN RESPONSE IS LIKELY TO BE TO PRESIDENT DIOUF'S PARALLEL MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT REAGAN AND CHANCELLOR KOHL. MEANWHILE THE SECRETARY OF STATE SEES NO CAUSE TO RECOMMEND TO THE PRIME MINISTER THAT SHE SHOULD SEND A MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT BOTHA. WE SHALL ASK OUR POST TO SPEAK TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN DFA FIRST THING ON MONDAY TO ENQUIRE ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TO THE IDASA GROUP AND TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT CONCERNS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED HERE AND ELSEWHERE ABOUT THEIR FUTURE SAFETY. WE CAN THEN DECIDE WHAT REPLY SHOULD BE SENT ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S BEHALF TO PRESIDENT DIOUF. THE REPLY MIGHT EMPHASISE THE PRIME MINISTER'S SUPPORT FOR PEACEFUL DIALOGUE SEMI COLON UNDERLINE THE CLOSE ATTENTION WE ARE PAYING TO THE FUTURE OF THE IDASA GROUP SEMI COLON SAY THAT, FOLLOWING PRESIDENT DIOUF'S MESSAGE, WE HAD SPOKEN TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES SEMI COLON AND ADD (IF STILL APPROPRIATE) THAT WE HAD NO INDICATION THAT THE SAG INTENDED TO TAKE ANY CRIMINAL ACTION AGAINST THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OR DENY THEM PROTECTION FROM WHITE EXTREMISTS.
6. (FOR WASHINGTON AND BONN) PLEASE MAKE ENQUIRIES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND AUSWARTIGES AMT AS INDICATED IN PARAGRAPH 5 ABOVE.
7. (FOR CAPETOWN) GRATEFUL IF YOU OR PRETORIA WOULD SPEAK AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO THE DFA, ALSO AS INDICATED IN PARAGRAPH 5.

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