

SENSITIVE

PAGE 1 - 867

SITUATION LISTING

DATE 11/23/77//327

SITUATION: NODIS OLD  
 SUBJECT CATEGORY: OUT

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:

EHAB34

OO RUEADWW

DE RUEHC #3320/1 2500016

ZNY SSSSS ZZH ZZY

O 070002Z SEP 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO RUQMAD/AMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 7570

INFO RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

BT

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 STATE 213320/1

NODIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS=1, 2 AND 3

TAGS: PARM, IS, ST, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ISRAELI-SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR CONNECTION

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 6330 (B) STATE 200985

1. WE REQUIRE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING ISRAELI'S NUCLEAR ASSOCIATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. SPECIFIC GAPS IN OUR KNOWLEDGE MAY BE DUE TO THE FACT THAT IN OUR FIRST TWO DEMARCHES WE DID NOT ASK ALL OF THE RIGHT QUESTIONS. WE HAD HOPED, HOWEVER, TO RECEIVE ISRAELI ANSWERS TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED AS WELL AS FULL DETAILS ON ISRAELI-SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT. FAILURE OF EVRON TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF AGREEMENT HAS CREATED CONCERN HERE THAT ISRAELIS MIGHT BE HOLDING OUT ON US. GIVEN VERY HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST HERE, YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH EVRON AGAIN.

2. WE NOW HAVE BEGIN'S ASSURANCE THAT A) THERE IS NO PRESENT, AND HAS BEEN NO PAST, RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOI AND THE SAG IN DEVELOPMENT OR PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS; AND B) HIS ASSURANCE THAT NEITHER THE GOI NOR PRIVATE ISRAELI FIRMS THAT THE GOI IS AWARE OF ARE COOPERATING WITH SOUTH AFRICA IN THE PRODUCTION OF ANY KIND OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES. BEGIN'S CAREFULLY PREPARED RESPONSES DO NOT COVER ALL THE POSSIBILITIES, HOWEVER. SPECIFICALLY, THEY DO NOT

FORECLOSE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE SECTOR (I.E., INDUSTRIAL FIRMS, RESEARCH OR ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, OR PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS) ARE HELPING OR HAVE HELPED THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE SECTOR DI-

SENSITIVE

SENSITIVE

PAGE 1 - 068

SITUATION LISTING

DATE 11/23/77/327

SITUATION: NODIS OLD  
SUBJECT CATEGORY: OUT

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

RECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES, NOR DO THEY FORECLOSE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE COOPERATING ON THE TESTING OF A DEVICE, THE COOPERATION NOT RULED OUT COULD INCLUDE TRANSFERS OF TECHNOLOGY, EQUIPMENT, NUCLEAR MATERIALS, OR EXPERTS, AS SUGGESTED IN REF B, PARA 1.

3. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THESE LOOPHOLES, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE HAVE INFORMATION WHICH CAN BE INTERPRETED TO INDICATE ISRAELI-SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONSHIPS IN EACH OF THESE AREAS (MATERIAL TRANSMITTED TO YOU THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS WILL BE RESTRUCTURED TO DEMONSTRATE THESE POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIPS; THIS ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND ONLY.)

4. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO SEEK FURTHER CLARIFICATION FROM THE GOI ON THIS MATTER, WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF (1) LEARNING WHAT THERE IS TO BE LEARNED ABOUT THE GOI-SA NUCLEAR RELATIONSHIP, AND (2) STRENGTHENING BEGIN'S ASSURANCES SO AS TO CLOSE OFF ALL AVENUES OF POTENTIAL ISRAELI-SOUTH AFRICAN COOPERATION WHICH MIGHT BE RELATED TO NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES AND WHICH COULD CONTRIBUTE TO SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY. OFFICIAL GOI CONFIRMATION THAT BEGIN'S ASSURANCES COVER PRESENT AND PAST RELATIONSHIPS WHICH BEAR DIRECTLY ON, OR COULD CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO, THE DEVELOPMENT OR TESTING OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA, WHETHER THROUGH GOVERNMENTAL OR PRIVATE CHANNELS, IS OUR MINIMUM REQUIREMENT.

5. THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS ARE FOR YOUR USE WITH EVRON.

-- MATTERS INVOLVING THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES ARE OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE U.S. THIS IS WHY WE APPRECIATE ISRAEL'S LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT NOT TO BE THE FIRST TO INTRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

-- AS YOU CAN UNDERSTAND, THE REACTION IN THE U.S. TO A SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TEST, AND TO ANY REVELATION OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE CONTRIBUTING TO SUCH A TEST WOULD BE EXTREMELY STRONG.

-- THEREFORE, WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE QUICK RESPONSE BY PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TO OUR PREVIOUS REQUESTS FOR ASSURANCES CONCERNING CERTAIN POSSIBLE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOI

SENSITIVE

SENSITIVE

PAGE 1 - 069

SITUATION LISTING

DATE 11/23/77/1327

SITUATION: NODIS OLD  
SUBJECT CATEGORY: OUT

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

AND THE SAG IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD,

-# WE FIND, HOWEVER, THAT THESE ASSURANCES DO NOT EXTEND TO ALL AREAS OF CONCERN AND THAT THERE ARE SOME GAPS IN OUR KNOWLEDGE OF GOI-SA NUCLEAR COOPERATION.

-# IN ADDITION TO THE SUBJECTS PREVIOUSLY COVERED, THEREFORE, WE SEEK THE PRIME MINISTER'S ASSURANCE THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN AND DOES NOT NOW EXIST AN ISRAELI-SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONSHIP INVOLVING THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, EQUIPMENT, NUCLEAR MATERIALS OR EXPERTS WHICH BEAR DIRECTLY ON OR COULD CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OR TESTING OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA WHETHER THROUGH GOVERNMENTAL OR PRIVATE CHANNELS, OR A RELATIONSHIP INVOLVING THE TESTING OF ANY NUCLEAR DEVICE. IF ANY SUCH RELATIONSHIPS EXIST OR HAVE EXISTED, WE REQUEST THE GOI PROVIDE US WITH AS MUCH SPECIFIC INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ON THEIR NATURE AND PURPOSES.

6. YOU SHOULD NOTE TO EVRON, AT AN APPROPRIATE POINT IN THE DISCUSSION, THAT HIS FAILURE TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF THE ISRAELI-SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT HAS RAISED CONCERNS IN WASHINGTON. YOU SHOULD ALSO REMIND HIM THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE FACING SOME ROUGH

BT

#3320

NNNN

SENSITIVE