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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY S/S:PTARNOFF:BABS  
APPROVED BY D - MR. CHRISTOPHER  
INR - MR. KIRK (DRAFT)

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[REDACTED] FOR THE SECRETARY FROM WARREN CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF, US

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR POTENTIAL

EO25x1 CIA

REF: STATE 189626

1. [REDACTED] WE HAVE TENTATIVELY CONCLUDED THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS PROBABLY PREPARING A NUCLEAR TEST SITE IN THE DESERT AND THUS THAT THEIR NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM MAY BE SOMEWHAT FURTHER ALONG THAN PREVIOUSLY REALIZED. ON AN URGENT BASIS WE ARE PROCEEDING TO UPDATE THESE ASSESSMENTS AND EXPECT A BETTER PICTURE OF THE STATE OF AFFAIRS BY TOMORROW OR SATURDAY.

2. YOU WILL KNOW BEST WHETHER TO MENTION THIS DEVELOPMENT TO BOTH UNDER ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. CABLES ON OUR EARLIER APPROACH TO SAG IN PRETORIA ON

~~SECRET~~

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THE SAME SUBJECT AND THE SAG REPLY HAVE BEEN REPEATED TO  
YOU.    CHRISTOPHER

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