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NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS=1,2,3 TAGS: PARM, SF SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TEST ISSUE

REF: STATE 198545

1. IN ABSENCE OF JOHNNY GRAHAM, CHARGE ON AUGUST 20 PROVIDED INFO PER REFTEL TO REID, HEAD OF FCO CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA DEPARTMENT.

2. REID SAID THAT, BASED ON INFO PROVIDED BY U.S., FINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO UK AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA SCOTT HOULD BE SENT AUGUST 20 TO MEET WITH BOTHA TO CONVEY FOLLOWING POINTS OR TO PROVIDE UK VIEWS BY LETTER FROM SCOTT VIA UK CONGEN CAPE TOWN, IF BOTHA IS THERE:

A) UK IS AWARE IN GENERAL TERMS OF BOWDLER-BOTHA EXCHANGE, THOUGH IT "DOES NOT WISH TO AND IS NOT IN A POSITION TO ENTER INTO DETAILS OF THE EVIDENCE" OF A SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM. (COMMENT: REID SAID BRITISH HAD DISCARDED "IF TRUE" QUALIFIER (REFTEL PARA 1) IN FAVOR OF STATEMENT IMPLYING ACCESS TO THE EVIDENCE HE NOTED, TOO, THAT US AGREEMENT TO UK REFERENCE TO BOWDLER-BOTHA EXCHANGE WOULD STRENGTHEN INFERENCE THAT SECRET

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UK AWARE OF EVIDENCE.)

B) IT WOULD BE "DISASTROUS" TO THE SEARCH FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IF SOUTH AFRICA "PRODUCES OR TESTS A NUCLEAR DEVICE. IT WOULD BE HARD TO IMAGINE AN ISSUE WITH GREATER IMPLICATIONS." SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION COULD FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY "WITH ALL THAT WOULD ENTAIL."

C) UK URGES SOUTH AFRICA TO "GIVE IMMEDIATE AND CONVINCING PROOF" THERE ARE NO SUCH PLANS IN ORDER TO ALLAY "WIDESPREAD AND GENUINE INTERNATIONAL ANXIETY." (COMMENT: "GENUINE" WAS INCLUDED, REÎD SAID, TO DISE TINGUISH BETWEEN REAL CONCERNS AROUSED AND POSSIBLE SOVIET HYPERBOLE.)

D) UK URGES SOUTH AFRICA TO ACCEDE TO THE

NPT.

THE FRENCH ON THIS ISSUE.

STREATOR

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