

CONFIDENTIAL

Pl. file

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MDADAN 5892

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FM CAPE TOWN EMBASSY
TO DESKBY 151030Z FCO
TELNO 102
OF 150745Z FEBRUARY 90
INFO IMMEDIATE HARARE, LUSAKA, UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON

ADVANCE COPY

MANDELA

1. AS REPORTED BY TELEPHONE, PIK BOTHA CALLED ME IN AN AGITATED STATE LAST NIGHT TO SAY THAT REUTER WERE CARRYING A NEWS FLASH BASED ON AN INTERVIEW MANDELA HAD GIVEN TO JAMES ROBBINS OF THE BBC WHICH ALLEGED THAT HE HAD SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS WERE LEGITIMATE TARGETS FOR ANC GUERILLA ATTACKS.

2. I TOLD PIK BOTHA THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS TO OBTAIN IMMEDIATELY THE FULL TEXT OF MANDELA'S REMARKS. HAVING CHECKED WITH REUTER, I TOLD PIK BOTHA THAT THEY WERE CORRECTING THEIR SUMMARY OF MANDELA'S REMARKS AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE SEEN IN THE WHOLE CONTEXT OF WHAT HE HAD SAID. HE HAD CALLED ON THE WHITE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT AND HAD TALKED OF THE NEED FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND THE NEED TO MEET THE CONCERNS OF THE WHITES. HE ALSO HAD DESCRIBED DE KLERK AS FLEXIBLE AND A MAN OF INTEGRITY. PIK BOTHA SAID THAT HE WAS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT MANDELA'S USE OF THE PRESENT TENSE: 'WE ARE CONCERNED WITH GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS'.

3. ROBBINS OF THE BBC SAID THAT MANDELA'S REMARKS HAD BEEN AMBIGUOUS. HE HAD SEEMED UNWILLING TO INDICATE THAT ANC POLICY HAD CHANGED. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH NBC TELEVISION LAST NIGHT MANDELA WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE ARMED STUGGLE SHOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT HAD MET THE ANC'S CONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

4. THE GOVERNMENT SO FAR ARE REACTING CALMLY TO THIS. I HAVE POINTED OUT TO THEM THAT THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY ANC ATTACKS. VIRTUALLY ALL THE VIOLENCE HERE SINCE MANDELA'S RELEASE HAS BEEN INTRA-BLACK (ANC/UDF VERSUS INKATHA IN NATAL AND CLASHES BETWEEN THE ANC AND PAC IN THE EASTERN CAPE).

5. FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO NO. 10.

RENWICK

ADVANCE

15

.SOUTHERN AFRICA
PS
PS/MR WALDEGRAVE
PS/PUS
MR TOMKYS
MR FAIRWEATHER
HD/SAFD
HD/CAFD



HD/UND
HD/NEWS
HD/SCD
HD/CONSULAR
MR APPELYARD CAB OFF
PS/S OF S MODUK
PS/N010.

NNNN