

TYPING

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HD/NEWS D  
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MR A J S GOODALL  
CABINET OFFICE

PS/No.10 DOWNING STREET

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

GRS 300  
RESTRICTED  
FM PRETORIA 091330Z DEC 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 1085 OF 9 DECEMBER 1982  
INFO IMMEDIATE MASERU UKMIS NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON  
ROUTINE MBABANE GABORONE HARARE LUANDA AND MAPUTO

MY TELNO 1081: SOUTH AFRICAN RAID ON MASERU

1. AT THE DFENCE BRIEFING TODAY THE SOUTH AFRICANS CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED EVIDENCE THAT ANC INFILTRATORS FROM MASERU WERE AIMING TO ATTACK ADMINISTRATION BOARD OFFICES IN THE EASTERN CAPE , BLACK LEADERS IN THE TRANSKEI AND CISKEI AND WHITE CIVIL SERVANTS. THEY HAD CAPTURED DURING THE RAID IN ADDITION USSR MANUFACTURED WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES, SUITCASES AND BOOT POLISH TINS WITH FALSE BOTTOMS.

2. THE LESOTHO GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN GIVEN SEVERAL WARNINGS BOTH IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUT THE ANC BUILD UP HAD CONTINUED AND IT HAD BECOME ESSENTIAL TO TAKE PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION.

3. AS A RESULT OF INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM MEMBERS OF THE ANC CAPTURED IN SOUTH AFRICA, THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD CONFIRMED THAT EARLIER TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE LANGA COURT BUILDING AND PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL BUILDING IN CAPE TOWN, THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN PORT ELIZABETH AND ON A RAILWAY LINE IN THE CISKEI HAD ALL BE LAUNCHED FROM LESOTHO.

4. THE ATTACK ON MASERU HAD RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF 32 MEMBERS OF THE ANC, SIX WOMEN AND ONE CHILD. ONE ANC MEMBER, TWO WOMEN AND ONE CHILD WERE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN WOUNDED. THERE HAD BEEN FEWER IN THE HOUSES THAN EXPECTED AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS THOUGHT THAT A NUMBER OF THE ANC MIGHT ALREADY HAVE LEFT TO CARRY OUT THEIR TASKS IN THE REPUBLIC, THE TRANSKEI AND CISKEI.

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THAT IT WAS AN SADF ATTACK ON ANC TARGETS RATHER THAN AN LLA  
ATTACK BUT THE ARMY AND POLICE HAD WITHDRAWN WITHOT CASUALTIES.

6. FULL REPORT ON BRIEFING FOLLOWS BY NEXT BAG.

FERGUSSON

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