

SOUTHERN AFRICA: ADVANCE COPIES 14

PS

PS/Mr RIFKIND

PS/PUS

~~SIR J LEAHY~~

MR. JOHANSON

MR ADAMS O'NEILL

MR BARRINGTON

HD/SAFD

HD/CAFQ

HD/UND

HD/NEWS D

HD CONS D

MR. FREELAND LEGAL ADV. Rm. WH216

~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

CARTLEBSE
MR A J S GOODALL
CABINET OFFICE

PS/NO. 10 DOWNING STREET



IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM PRETORIA 251100Z
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 416 OF 25 SEPTEMBER 1984

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY)
LILONGWE (FOR MR RIFKIND)

YOUR TEL NO 475 TO UKMIS NEW YORK: INCIDENT AT THE DURBAN CONSULATE

SUMMARY

1. THE SOUTH AFRICANS AT OFFICIAL LEVEL ARE ACUTELY AWARE OF THE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES WHICH YESTERDAY'S OUTBURST BY PW AND PIK BOTHA HAVE CAUSED. THEY ARE NONETHELESS ANXIOUS FOR US TO TALK TO THEM.

DETAIL

2. WHEN I CALLED ON FRANKLIN, DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE, ON ANOTHER MATTER THIS MORNING, OUR CONVERSATION INEVITABLY MOVED TO THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.
3. FRANKLIN (WHO HAS CLEARLY BEEN DRAFTING THE INSTRUCTIONS TO WORRALL) SAID THAT THE THREE ISSUES WHICH HAD UPSET PW AND PIK BOTHA MORE THAN ANYTHING HAD BEEN:
 - (A) THE REFUSAL TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT WHICH WORRALL COULD HAVE PRESENTED PERSONALLY P W BOTHA'S PROPOSAL WHICH MIGHT WELL HAVE REQUIRED ADDITIONAL ORAL ELABORATION.

HAVE REQUIRED ADDITIONAL ORAL ELABORATION.

- (B) THE INCREASINGLY POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THE DURBAN SIT-IN, WHICH WAS CAUSING P W BOTHA ACUTE DOMESTIC EMBARRASSMENT.
- (C) THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE STRENGTH OF THEIR LEGAL CASE ON THE QUESTION OF ASYLUM AND ENFORCEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN LAW.

FRANKLIN ADDED THAT PIK BOTHA WOULD HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO FLY TO BRITAIN TO MEET THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE COMPANY OF WORRALL.

4. FRANKLIN SAID THAT HE REALISED THAT THE LATEST EVENTS COULD HAVE A SERIOUSLY ADVERSE EFFECT ON RELATIONS. HE TOUCHED ON THE ARMSCOR CASE AND I EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD IN FACT GIVEN VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO PIK BOTHA'S REPRESENTATIONS TO ME ON 28 AUGUST AND THAT I WOULD ALREADY HAVE REPLIED IN DETAIL TO SOUTH AFRICAN CONCERNS HAD THE DURBAN INCIDENT NOT ARISEN. ADDING THAT I HAD NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS AT THIS STAGE, I DREW ON THE ARGUMENTS IN FCO TEL NO 199 IN RESPONSE TO FRANKLIN'S SPECIFIC REQUEST TO CLARIFY THE ISSUES. FRANKLIN COMMENTED THAT IT WAS A PITY THAT WE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK TO HIM BEFORE ABOUT THIS MATTER. I SAID THAT I EXPECTED TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO PUT OUR POSITION ON THE RECORD IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I ALSO ROUNDLY REJECTED THE ASSERTION BY PIK BOTHA YESTERDAY EVENING THAT THE FOUR SOUTH AFRICANS MIGHT HAVE BEEN ENTICED TO BRITAIN (YOUR TEL NO 223) AND IN THIS I WAS SUPPORTED BY BOURKE FROM OUR CONSULATE-GENERAL IN JOHANNESBURG, WHO HAS FOUR YEARS OF LONDON EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH CUSTOMS AND EXCISE.
5. FRANKLIN SAID THAT THE DFA WERE ANXIOUS TO RESOLVE THE DURBAN PROBLEM AND SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD GET TOGETHER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH THIS MIGHT BE ACHIEVED. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

TONKIN

NNNN