

SOUTHERN AFRICA: ADVANCE COPIES 15

CARTLEDGE
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CABINET OFFICE

PS

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MR JOHNSON

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MR FREELAND LEGAL ADV. Rm. WH216

RESIDENT CLERK

PS/NO. 10 DOWNING STREET

Summary only

CONFIDENTIAL

FM PRETORIA 171307Z OCT 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 527 OF 17 OCTOBER

INFO SAVING JOHANNESBURG

YOUR TELSNO 286 AND 292 : DURBAN

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

SUMMARY

1. THE THREE SEEM SET TO STAY ON. WE SEE GROWING DIFFICULTY IN KEEPING THE CONSULATE GOING BEYOND THE END OF NEXT WEEK OR SO.

DETAIL

2. THE NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS HAVE THIS MORNING BEEN BRIEFING THE PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE THREE HAVE DECIDED TO STAY ON IN THE CONSULATE FOR SOME CONSIDERABLE PERIOD. IT APPEARS THAT THEY CAME NEAR TO AGREEING TO WALK OUT YESTERDAY. WE ARE NOT SURE WHY THEY CHANGED THEIR MINDS. IT MAY BE THAT ONE FACTOR IS THAT BISHOP TUTU, FOLLOWING THE AWARD OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, WILL BE RETURNING TO SOUTH AFRICA LATER THIS WEEK, THUS INTERRUPTING HIS STUDY LEAVE IN THE UNITED STATES. THE NIC HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN TOLD THAT HE WILL CALL AT THE CONSULATE ON 25 OCTOBER TO SEE THE THREE. THIS REMAINS TO BE SEEN BUT IT WOULD GUARANTEE FURTHER INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY FOR THEIR STAND.

3. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THE INSTRUCTIONS IN YOUR TEL NO 292 ARE WELCOME AND TIMELY. DAVEY WILL PROCEED ON LOCAL LEAVE WITH EFFECT FROM THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON 19 OCTOBER. WE SHALL TAKE STEPS TO GET MOST COMMERCIAL ENQUIRIES AND ALL CONSULAR ENQUIRIES BY TELEPHONE TRANSFERRED TO JOHANNESBURG WITH EFFECT FROM 22 OCTOBER. WHILE THE OFFICE REMAINS OPEN THERE WILL BE A SMALL TRICKLE OF

BY TELEPHONE TRANSFERRED TO JOHANNESBURG WITH EFFECT FROM 22 OCTOBER. WHILE THE OFFICE REMAINS OPEN THERE WILL BE A SMALL TRICKLE OF CONSULAR ENQUIRIES AT THE RECEPTION AND WE SHALL NEED SUPPORT STAFF TO DEAL WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SITUATION.

4. AS SEEN FROM HERE ONE OF THE STRONGEST ARGUMENTS FOR CLOSING THE CONSULATE COMPLETELY IS THE CURRENT PRESSURE ON OUR STAFF. MUCH OF THIS HAS FALLEN ON OUR CONSUL WHO HAS ONLY HAD SHORT BREAKS AWAY FROM THE PREMISES SINCE 13 SEPTEMBER AND THE DECISION TO GIVE HIM LEAVE WAS OVERDUE. THE REST OF THE STAFF IN DURBAN HAVE BEEN WORKING SUBSTANTIAL OVERTIME WITHOUT ANY OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE COMPENSATORY TIME OFF. THEY ARE ALL TIRED AND VERY ANXIOUS THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION SHOULD BE BROUGHT SPEEDILY TO AN END.

5. REGULAR WORK AT DURBAN HAS ALREADY BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY RUN DOWN IN A POST IN WHICH THERE IS ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE STAFF FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE CONSUL, BUT IS INEVITABLE THAT MUCH OF THE WORK DEPENDS ON HIS OWN CONTRIBUTION. HE HAS EFFECTIVELY BEEN DEALING WITH NOTHING OTHER THAN THE SITUATION SINCE 13 SEPTEMBER. HE HAS UNDERTAKEN NO CALLS OUTSIDE THE CONSULATE. HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONTINUE WITH HIS PROGRAMME OF VISITS OUTSIDE DURBAN. OUR AID PROGRAMME IS IN SUSPENSE. HE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO CALL ON BLACK LEADERS OR TO VISIT KWAZULU.

6. TO A LARGE EXTENT ALL THE OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE CONSULATE HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO A MINIMAL LEVEL. THE VICE-CONSUL (COMMERCIAL) HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE WITH THE SITUATION IN THE CONSULATE AND HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO CARRY OUT HIS PLANNED PROGRAMME OF VISITS ALTHOUGH HE HAS PROVIDED SOME ASSISTANCE TO COMMERCIAL VISITORS.

7. WE HAVE BEEN REINFORCING DURBAN BY SENDING STAFF DOWN FROM PRETORIA AND JOHANNESBURG. TWO REINFORCEMENTS WILL BE PRESENT AT THE CONSULATE NEXT WEEK: GREGSON (GRADE 7) JOHANNESBURG AND MCCRUDDEN (GRADE 9) PRETORIA. BUT SUCH REINFORCEMENT CAN ONLY BE DONE AT THE EXPENSE OF CONSIDERABLE INROADS INTO OTHER ASPECTS OF WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA. SO FAR THIS HAS RESULTED MAINLY IN DELAYS TO POLITICAL REPORTING FROM PRETORIA. THE RESOURCES IN JOHANNESBURG FOR SUCH REPORTING WILL BE DEPLETED NEXT WEEK. THERE HAS BEEN A DELAY TO OUR WORK IN THE LABOUR FIELD. THE DURBAN SITUATION HAS ALSO BEEN OCCUPYING A LARGE PART OF THE TIME OF THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE CHANCERY WHO HAVE REMAINED IN PRETORIA.

8. THE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS THAT BARCLAYS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO INSTITUTE: LOCKED CORRIDOR DOORS AND EXTRA SECURITY CONTROLS HAVE DETERRED MANY WOULD BE VISITORS. THERE WOULD IN NORMAL TIMES BE ABOUT 30 PASSPORT AND CONSULAR VISITORS EVERY MORNING. THIS NUMBER HAS DWINDLED TO ABOUT 12 PERSISTENT PEOPLE EACH DAY. ALL EMERGENCY CONSULAR CASES HAVE CONTINUED TO BE PROCESSED. TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH BUT THE TELEPHONE LINES ARE OFTEN FULLY TAKEN UP WITH "SIT-IN" BUSINESS. THE KEY TO THE WORK OF THE OFFICE IS THE CONSUL. ONCE HE IS WITHDRAWN THE OFFICE WILL LACK THE DIRECTION TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE

WITHDRAWN THE OFFICE WILL LACK THE DIRECTION TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO FUNCTION.

9. GIVEN THE INCREASINGLY POLITICAL NATURE OF THE STAND OF THE THREE, THE COMPLETE ABSENCE OF ANY RESPONSE TO OUR REQUESTS FOR ASSURANCES ABOUT THEIR BEHAVIOUR AND CLARIFICATION OF THEIR POSITION, AND THE LACK OF ANY SIGN THAT THEY ARE NOW CONTEMPLATING EARLY WITHDRAWAL, THERE APPEARS TO BE NO GOOD REASON FOR DELAYING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RUN-DOWN PROCESS BEYOND NEXT WEEK. THE APPARENT SUCCESS OF THE ANDERSON VISIT, WHICH HAS DOMINATED HEADLINES HERE SINCE HE ARRIVED, WILL ALSO HAVE ENCOURAGED THE THREE AND THEIR ORGANISATIONS TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS CONTINUING MILEAGE TO BE GAINED FROM THEIR REMAINING IN THE CONSULATE. IT IS PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT THAT BESIDES BISHOP TUTU A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DUTCH SOCIALIST PARTY IS NOW APPARENTLY CONSIDERING A VISIT (THE HAGUE TELNO 323 TO THE FCO REFERS). THE CONSULATE COULD BECOME A MECCA FOR INTERNATIONAL OPPOSITION TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

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