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FROM PRETORIA 060800Z
 TO PRIORITY FCO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 170 OF 6 AUGUST 1985

INFO ROUTINE JOHANNESBURG

INFO SAVING CAPE TOWN (CONSULATE) AND DURBAN

MY TELNO 165: SOUTH AFRICA: SITUATION ROUND-UP

SUMMARY

1. A GENERALLY QUIET WEEKEND. FUNERALS IN THE EASTERN CAPE PASSED WITHOUT MAJOR INCIDENT. BOYCOTT OF WHITE SHOPS IN THE EASTERN CAPE AND SCHOOL STAY-AWAYS CONTINUE. AN EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED IN THE TRANSKEI.

GENERAL SITUATION

2. 31 MORE PEOPLE WERE DETAINED BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 1412. ALTOGETHER 114 DETAINEES HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED. UNDER THE EMERGENCY REGULATIONS THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER MUST RENEW DETENTION ORDERS AFTER 14 DAYS, AND THE FIRST OF THESE ARE NOW BEING SIGNED.

3. FUNERALS AT ZWIDE OUTSIDE PORT ELIZABETH WERE HELD INSIDE A CHURCH IN CONTRAST TO THE OPEN AIR SERVICES HELD BEFORE LAST WEEK'S RESTRICTIONS ON FUNERAL GATHERINGS. SEVEN PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED AFTER THE SERVICE. WITNESSES TEL US THAT THERE WAS A STRONG POLICE PRESENCE BUT THAT THE FUNERAL PASSED OFF WITHOUT ANY SERIOUS CLASH.

4. WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION THAT THE NUMBERS OF INCIDENTS IN BOTH THE EASTERN CAPE AND EAST RAND ARE MUCH REDUCED. THIS SEEMS TO BE LARGELY BECAUSE OF REACTION TO EMERGENCY PROVISIONS. THE BLACK POPULATION APPEARS TO BE ACCEPTING A VOLUNTARY CURFEW. TOWNSHIPS IN THE EMERGENCY AREA HAVE BEEN QUIET AFTER DARK.

5. FEWER PEOPLE HAVE DIED IN CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE POLICE IN THE PAST WEEK. BUT UNEXPLAINED DEATHS OF BLACKS CONTINUE TO BE REPORTED. BLACKS ARE ALLEGING THAT NOT ALL SUCH DEATHS ARE APPEARING IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS. REPRISALS AGAINST SUSPECTED INFORMERS ARE ALSO CONTINUING. AN ALLEGED INFORMER WAS BURNT NEAR ADELAIDE IN THE EASTERN CAPE AND THE BODY OF A MAN WHO HAD BEEN STABBED AND BURNT WAS DISCOVERED NEAR CRADOCK.

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Boycott

BOYCOTTS

6. THE BLACK CONSUMER BOYCOTT OF WHITE BUSINESSES IN MANY EASTERN CAPE TOWNS REMAINS IN FORCE WITH APPARENT SUCCESS. INTIMIDATION IS PROBABLY A FACTOR IN THE SPREAD OF THE BOYCOTT. IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES BLACKS ARE RELUCTANT TO RISK BREAKING RANKS.

NATIONAL UNION OF MINE WORKERS

7. IN ADDITION TO VOTING FOR STRIKE ACTION TO COMMENCE ON 25 AUGUST (ON WHICH WE ARE REPORTING SEPARATELY), THE NUM MEETING ON 3 AUGUST CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE EMERGENCY AND THREATENED TO BOYCOTT WHITE SHOPS IN MINING AREAS AS PART OF A 'STRONG RESPONSE' IF THE EMERGENCY CONTINUED.

ATTACK ON MINISTER'S HOME

8. THE HOME OF THE LEADER OF THE MAJORITY PARTY IN THE (INDIAN) HOUSE OF DELEGATES, MR RAJBANSI, WAS DAMAGED BY AN EXPLOSION ON 4 AUGUST. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THIS WAS CAUSED BY A GRENADE.

SCHOOLS

9. THE SCHOOLS STAY-AWAY IS CONTINUING BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PERSUADE STUDENTS LEADERS TO END STAY-AWAYS IN PARTICULAR AREAS, IN RETURN FOR AGREEMENT TO RELEASE DETAINED LOCAL STUDENT LEADERS.

TRANSKEI.

10. THE TRANSKEIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE TRANSKEI WHICH HAS BEEN TROUBLED BY SIMILAR UNREST TO THAT IN THE REST OF SOUTH AFRICA.

POLITICAL PROPOSALS

11. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ARE GIVING URGENT ATTENTION TO FUTURE ACTION. COMMENT ON THE SABC WHICH REFLECTS GOVERNMENT BRIEFING HAS BEEN EMPHASISING THE NEED FOR EARLY PROGRESS WITH LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS THAT WILL BENEFIT THE BLACK COMMUNITY. A SPEECH WHICH HE IS DUE TO MAKE TO THE PARTY MEETING ON 15 AUGUST WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PRESIDENT TO SET OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S THINKING.

MOBERLY

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