

## **March 1981**

# **South African Department of Foreign Affairs, 'Directive for Discussions of Nuclear Matters with United States Authorities'**

### **Citation:**

"South African Department of Foreign Affairs, 'Directive for Discussions of Nuclear Matters with United States Authorities'", March 1981, Wilson Center Digital Archive, South African Foreign Affairs Archives, Brand Fourie Personal Papers, Nuclear Energy, Top Secret, 1 January 1981 to 8 May 1981, Vol V. Obtained and contributed by Anna-Mart van Wyk, Monash South Africa.

<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/114182>

### **Summary:**

A memorandum in advance of a meeting between U.S. and South African policymakers which outlines South Africa's intention to adhere to the principles and spirit of the NPT, and concerns about the supply of fuel for the Koeberg and SAFARI-1 reactors

### **Credits:**

This document was made possible with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY)

### **Original Language:**

English

### **Contents:**

Original Scan

DIRECTIVE FOR DISCUSSIONS OF NUCLEAR MATTERS WITH UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES

France

22 131st  
March 1981

I. (i) As has been indicated in the past, South Africa is not in principle opposed (~~South Africa intends acceding to~~) the NPT, provided that its basic requirements can be met.

(ii) As in the past, South Africa will continue to conduct and administer its nuclear affairs in a manner which is in line with the spirit, principles and goals of the NPT.

(iii) South Africa's nuclear programmes are geared to the peaceful application of nuclear energy and at no time has she tested a nuclear device. *and does not contemplate doing so subject to what follows below*

II. NPT.

After resuming the course of our discussions and negotiations it may be said within a limited group that:

*does not contemplate*  
*has no desire to proceed with the*  
~~South Africa assures them (the United States), subject to what follows below, that it is not proceeding (busy) with development of nuclear weaponry.~~

*Debate*

*The US*

They must, ~~however~~, realize that we are threatened by the USSR and associates, by certain African countries with Soviet support and encouragement, that we have no hope of assistance from the UN in case we are attacked. On the contrary we are continuously being threatened with action under

Chapter VII of the Charter of the UN. While this continues, we cannot in the interest of our own security sign the NPT and thus set the minds of our would-be attackers at rest, allowing them to proceed with their plans against us.

### III. KOEBERG

What we ask in connection with Koeberg:

- (a) If the United States feels it cannot supply the enriched uranium through France timeously for the Koeberg reactors under present circumstances, the USA permits France as soon as possible to supply the two initial fuel loadings and two reloadings for Koeberg.
- (b) DOE agrees either to cancel the present contract for the supply of enriched uranium to ESCOM at no cost, or DOE agrees to postpone execution of the contract at no cost until such time as an agreement can be reached between the United States and South African authorities which would permit the United States to resume deliveries of fuel to South Africa.

### IV SAFARI

It is considered that the stage has been reached when we should tell the present American Administration that because of the actions of the Carter Administration over a number of years in withholding fuel for SAFARI in spite of their contractual obligations, and the fact that SAFARI is under full safeguards, South

3.

Africa had no alternative but to develop on its own a fuel element for the SAFARI reactor which would use uranium enriched to only 45% in  $U_{235}$  content. The intention to do this was conveyed in 1978 to the United States delegation in South Africa and also at INFCE. We have also succeeded at a considerable cost in producing a quantity of 45% enriched uranium and have manufactured it into fuel elements for use in SAFARI. It is our intention to start using these fuel elements in the reactor for the first time during April 1981, when an inspection visit of the IAEA inspectors is expected. Needless to say, this fuel will be taken up in the inventory of the IAEA for the SAFARI reactor and will be subject to safeguards in accordance with the requirements of our safeguards agreements.

Vergadering . . . . . Saturday 2 Nov 28/3/81  
Libertas

Teewoording

E.M.  
M.M. R.F. Botke  
F.W. de Klerk  
Makan  
B.G. Fourie  
Sarel du Plessis  
Dr. J.W.L. de Villiers

Goedgekeur 2008 gevestig:  
B.H.F. 28.3.81