

March 30, 1960

**Letter, South African Department of Foreign Affairs,
Informing the United States of South Africa's Intent
to Request Nuclear Materials**

Citation:

"Letter, South African Department of Foreign Affairs, Informing the United States of South Africa's Intent to Request Nuclear Materials", March 30, 1960, Wilson Center Digital Archive, South African Foreign Affairs Archives, Atomic Research in the Union of South Africa.137.11.23.Vol 3.24.3.58-13.5.60. Obtained and contributed by Anna-Mart van Wyk, Monash South Africa.

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Summary:

P. H. Philip of the South African Department of Foreign Affairs writes to the US Ambassador to South Africa informing him that South Africa will formally apply to the United States Atomic Energy Commission by June 1st 1960 for nuclear materials, pursuant to the bilateral trade agreement between the US and the Union of South Africa.

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

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

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It is understood that both the foregoing proposals must be made to the United States Atomic Energy Commission before the 1st June, 1960. Moreover, as you will observe, it will probably be necessary for the details to be discussed with Dr. Roux, when he visits the United States at the end of the month. It would accordingly be appreciated if you could have the necessary representations in this regard ready for your earliest convenience.

PRETORIA.
30 MAR 1960

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Union of South Africa,
WASHINGTON.

Enriched Uranium from the U.S.A.E.C.

SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

As you are aware, Paragraph A of Article VIII of the Agreement for Co-operation between the Governments of the United States of America and the Union of South Africa Concerning the Civil Uses of Atomic Energy, signed at Washington on the 8th July, 1957, provides that:

"The United States Commission will sell to the Government of the Union of South Africa uranium enriched up to 20% in the isotope U235, except as otherwise stated in paragraph C of this Article ..."

Paragraph C of Article VIII further states that:

"The United States Commission may, upon request and in its discretion, make a portion of the foregoing special nuclear material available as material enriched up to 90% for use in a materials testing reactor....."

The Union's Atomic Energy Board now wishes to make formal application in terms of the abovementioned provisions to the United States Atomic Energy Commission to arrange for special nuclear material enriched up to 90% in U235 to be made available to the Board for use in a research reactor to be owned and operated by the Board. It is proposed to negotiate the quantities and details of supply during the visit of the Board's Research Director, Dr. A.J.A. Roux, to Washington in June of this year.

It is also understood that the United States Atomic Energy Commission will make available to countries who have signed bilateral agreements with the U.S.A., limited amounts of Plutonium-239 for research purposes. The Board wishes to obtain official confirmation that this is the case and, if so, to ascertain whether the United States Commission will be prepared to make available to the Board the maximum allowable quantity of Plutonium-239.

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It is understood that both the foregoing requests must be made to the United States Atomic Energy Commission before the 1st June, 1960. Moreover, as you will observe, it will probably be necessary for the details to be discussed with Dr. Roux, when he visits the United States at the end of May. It would accordingly be appreciated if you could make the necessary representations in this regard at your earliest convenience.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Union of South Africa,
WASHINGTON.

Enriched Uranium P. H. Philip A.E.C.

SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

As you are aware, Paragraph A of Article VIII of the Agreement for Co-operation between the Governments of the United States of America and the Union of South Africa Concerning the Civil Uses of Atomic Energy, signed at Washington on the 8th July, 1957, provides that:

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN : ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD.

For your information please with reference to your minute A.E.B.14/1 of the 11th March, 1960.

Paragraph C of Article VIII further states that:

"The United States Commission may, upon request and in its discretion, make a portion of the foregoing enriched uranium available as material for use in a materials testing reactor."

W. MALAN

SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

WM/CG

The Union's Atomic Energy Board now wishes to make formal application in terms of the abovementioned provisions to the United States Atomic Energy Commission to request the special reactor material enriched up to 90% in ²³⁵U to be made available to the Board for use in a research reactor to be sited and operated by the Board. It is proposed to expedite the quantities and details of this material during the visit of the Board's Research Director, Dr. W. H. M. M. van der Meer, to Washington in June of 1960.

It is also understood that the United States