

April 30, 1960

**Letter, South African Legation in Vienna, Regarding
Relations with the United States**

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Summary:

The South African Legation in Vienna writes to the Department of Foreign Affairs to request a copy of the Union's bilateral agreement with the United States. Mr. Philip at the Department of External Affairs attaches a handwritten note that they won't find anything in the bilateral on grants for nuclear technology; the offer was made generally, in President Eisenhower's subsequent speech.

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SOUTH AFRICAN LEGATION,
REISNERSTRASSE 48,
VIENNA, III.

30th April, 1960.

Dear Peter,

Enclosed in this week's bag are copies of an exchange of telegrams with Washington about the Union taking up the provision for \$350,000 aid in our bilateral with the United States. Unfortunately we do not have a copy of the bilateral available here but it was our understanding that a provision of this sort was a standard provision in all bilaterals concluded by the United States. Hence our reference to it in our telegram No. 6 (which was drafted after discussion with Dr Roux). However, it appears from Washington's replies that it has either been omitted from our bilateral or has been so circumscribed as to enable the United States to respond as negatively as they have. What puzzles us is that Cabinet approval was obtained for an approach to the United States for \$350,000 aid in terms of the bilateral. It is inconceivable that anyone would have presented a submission to Cabinet on this subject without first of all satisfying himself that the provision existed in the bilateral.

However, the object of this note is merely to ask you to be good enough to arrange for a copy of the bilateral to be sent to us. We should appreciate it.

With best wishes,

Yours ever,

Carl

Mr P. Philip,
Department of External Affairs,
PRETORIA.

Mr. Malan, Pretoria

There seems to be some misunderstanding here. My impression is that the U.S. grant was not covered by an bilateral or by any other country's agreement with the U.S. It was a general offer made to all countries with whom the U.S. had concluded bilaterals, and was not referred to in any of the texts. Would it be possible

- a) To check the President's statement on "atoms for peace".
- b) To make sure that the bilateral makes no provision for such a grant
- c) To clear the matter up with Vienna.