

**November 3, 1993**

**Cable, South African Department of Foreign Affairs,  
Minutes of Multilateral Coordination Meeting on 21  
September 1993 Regarding Armscor**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

Minutes of a meeting describing jurisdictional confusion between Armscor and its corporate offshoot Denel.

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Original Scan

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FROM: MA79 E Sub-dir: Kern, Militêre Skakeling en On

DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 1993

JEAN: AS DISCUSSED. PLEASE LET ME SEE THE DRAFT BEFORE IT  
 GOES OFF. THANKS PETER.

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BT

VERSANDINGS/AFHANDELINGSVOORRANG

GEWOON

+KODES.

KEN

+LEERNOMMER.

8/6

+SEKERHEIDSKLASSIFIKASIE.

GEHEIM

+DATUM.

19931103

+AFSENDER.

NAI

+ONTVANGER VIR AKSIE.

DTOK

+ONTVANGER TER INLIGTING.

DAFR DMPH DOEM

+ONDERWERP/VERRYKING.

MULTILATERAL CO-ORDINATION MEETING : ARMSCOR

+INHOUD.

BELANGRIKHEID

ROETINE

NAAM VAN BEAMPTE/DEPARTMENT

C COLEMAN

SLEGS VIR/DEPARTEMENT

1. The Minutes of the Multilateral Co-ordination meeting held on 21 September 1993, refer.

2. In item 6.5.4., the matter of the Department's new relationship with Armscor is addressed. Mission is aware that since the restructuring of the way the South African arms industry approached its business, there is some disagreement between Armscor and the private sector manufacturers. The disagreement is specifically between Denel and Armscor. As the Mission understands the situation, Armscor's prime role at present relates solely to the sale of second-hand SADF equipment, and procurement of armaments for the SADF. Denel, on the other hand, is responsible for the foreign marketing of South African produced equipment. The problem appears to be a definitional one between Armscor and Denel. Particularly in Africa, and especially in the East and Central African region, a proper failure to define jurisdictions could cause further tension between the two, and embarrassment for South Africa. The Mission has already experienced a number of such embarrassing cases.

3. How these two bodies relate to the Weapons Export Permit Committee is unclear, but the present lack of definition is likely to impact negatively on South Africa. The perception in Africa is often simplistic, equating weaponry with South Africa, irrespective of whoever is being dealt with.

4. Mission would propose that in the light of the above, contact also be taken up with Denel in an effort to clarify the position.