

September 29, 1977

**Telegram from the UK Embassy in Vienna to the
Foreign and Commonwealth Office, on South African
Statement to the IAEA General Conference**

Citation:

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Summary:

The UK Embassy in Vienna reports on the South African statement to the International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference denying Soviet accusations that the country was developing nuclear weapons.

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO TELNO 279 OF 29 SEPTEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKHIS NEW YORK, PRETORIA FOLLOWING FROM RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE IAEA SOUTH AFRICA AND THE NPT

1. THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE WAS INCLUDED IN THE STATEMENT MADE TODAY BY THE DELEGATE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE 21ST SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE.

QUOTE NOTWITHSTANDING REPEATED ASSURANCES ABOUT ITS COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL USES OF THE ATOM AND DESPITE REGULAR INSPECTIONS BY THE IAEA INSPECTORS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCH REACTOR SAFARI ONE AT PELINDABA TO THE FULL SATISFACTION OF THE AGENCY, TENDENTIOUS ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE, WITH TRESOME FREQUENCY, THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS EITHER DEVELOPED OR IS DEVELOPING A NUCLEAR WEAPON, SUCH ALLEGATIONS COULD, HOWEVER, ALWAYS BE TRACED TO HIGHLY SUSPECT SOURCES SEEKING POLITICAL ADVANTAGE.

2. SUCH WAS THE RECENT PATENTLY SPURIOUS ALLEGATION BY THE SOVIET UNION THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS ABOUT TO EXPLODE AN ATOMIC DEVICE-- AN ALLEGATION MADE WITH THE UTMOST CYNICISM AT A TIME WHEN THE SOVIET UNION ITSELF WAS ENGAGED IN SUCH ACTIVITIES EXPLANATION MARK

3. ONCE AGAIN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT GAVE ASSURANCES THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE OR INTEND TO DEVELOP A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE FOR ANY PURPOSE, PEACEFUL OR OTHERWISE SEMICOLON THAT IT HAS NO TESTING FACILITY FOR NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES AND THAT THERE WILL BE ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE TESTING OF ANY KIND IN SOUTH AFRICA. WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT SUCH ALLEGATIONS WILL AGAIN BE MADE BY THOSE WHO PREY ON THE FEARS OF MANKIND UNQUOTE

03/06/2010
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