

October 6, 1977

Telegram from H.M.S. Reid to UK Embassy in Pretoria with Instructions for Meeting with South African Secretary for Foreign Affairs Brand Fourie

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Summary:

H.M.S. Reid sends instructions to the UK Embassy in Pretoria in preparation for a meeting with South African Secretary for Foreign Affairs Brand Fourie. Reid informs them that the Prime Minister wishes to send his concerns about the possibility of South Africa exploding a nuclear device.

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OUTWARD
TELEGRAM

Security Classification
SECRET
Precedence
IMMEDIATE
DESKBY

FOR
COMMS. DEPT.
USE

Despatched

(Date).....
(Time)..... Z

POSTBY

Z

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin)..... Z(G.M.T.)
(Security Class.) SECRET
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(Restrictive Prefix)
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TO IMMEDIATE
(precedence)

PRETORIA
(post)

Tel. No. of

AND TO (precedence/post)

AND SAVING TO

REPEATED TO (for info)

SAVING TO (for info)

[TEXT]

Sir D Scott's letter to Reid of 6 October:

SOUTH AFRICAN TEST EXPLOSIONS

1. Please call on Fourie and say that Sir D Scott reported his informal conversation with him on 3 October which has been studied with much interest here and has been submitted to the Prime Minister.

2. You should ask Fourie to inform his Minister and Mr Vorster that the Prime Minister remains anxious to keep in touch in a constructive spirit with the South Africans on nuclear matters. You should refer in this connection to the Prime Minister's message to Mr Vorster following President Brezhnev's message in August, and /say that

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say that we still hope that the South Africans will quickly seek to enter into a safeguards agreement for Valindaba. The Prime Minister considers that the early conclusion of such a safeguards agreement would be the best way for the South Africans to get themselves back into substantive international exchanges in nuclear matters.

3. Going back to Fourie's conversation with the Ambassador you should say that the Prime Minister was concerned to hear that the South Africans might carry out one or more non-nuclear test explosions next month (November) at the Kalahari site. The Prime Minister does not wish to seem to be interfering in matters which are properly for decision by the South African Government. But he has been following closely the difficult international political situation and is convinced that if these explosions take place any assurance given to the South Africans that they are non-nuclear will be dismissed, or even genuinely disbelieved, and that the consequences not in Africa but in the world at large and domestically could be far-reaching and serious.

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