

October 25, 1977
**Telegram from UK Embassy in Pretoria to the
Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 'South Africa's
Nuclear Intentions'**

Citation:

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Summary:

UK Embassy in Pretoria reports on South African President Vorster's remarks on nuclear matters to ABC television.

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FM PRETORIA
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TO IMMEDIATE FCO LONDON TELNO. 1064 DATED 25 OCTOBER 1977,

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON,
ROUTINE MODUK (DS 11) AND MOSCOW
SAVING VIENNA (FOR RESREP IAEA)

YOUR TELNO. 495 : SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR INTENTIONS.

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF VORSTER'S REMARKS ON NUCLEAR
MATTERS TO ABC TELEVISION (INTERVIEW RECORDED ON 17 OCTOBER
AND BROADCAST ON 23 OCTOBER) :

BEGINS:

BOB CLARCK

MR PRIME MINISTER, IF WE MAY ONCE AGAIN TO THE QUESTION OF
MEDDLING. WAS PRESIDENT CARTER MEDDLING WHEN HE OBTAINED
A PROMISE FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO THAT
SOUTH AFRICA WOULDN'T DEVELOP NUCLEAR BOMBS OR NUCLEAR
WEAPONS OF ANY SORT?

PRIME MINISTER

NO, I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY PROMISE THAT I GAVE TO PRESIDENT
CARTER. I REPEATED A STATEMENT WHICH I HAVE MADE VERY OFTEN,
THAT AS FAR AS SOUTH AFRICA IS CONCERNED, WE ARE ONLY INTERESTED
IN PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES.

BOB CLARCK

BUT PRESIDENT CARTER CALLED ON SOUTH AFRICA TO SIGN THE NUCLEAR
NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, WHICH WOULD BIND YOU TO AN AGREEMENT
NOT TO DEVELOP ANY NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WILL YOU SIGN THAT TREATY?

03/06/2010 14:32

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ASST DIR	
SECRETARY	
ADMIN	

PRIME MINISTER

AND YOU WILL RECALL THAT I GAVE MY REPLY IN CAPE TOWN WHEN MY PARTY CONGRESS WAS IN SESSION THERE, AND I POINTED OUT THAT I FIND IT VERY STRANGE THAT SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD BE PRESSURISED FOR NOT SIGNING, WHERE NO LESS THAN THIRTEEN OF THE THIRTY-FOUR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD HAVEN'T SIGNED THE TREATY.

BOB CLARCK

BUT MOST OF THOSE ARE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE SOME IDEA IN THE BACK OF THEIR HEAD OF SOME DAY DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. YOUR COUNTRY SAYS

PRIME MINISTER

NO, NO, NO, THEIR ARE CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NEITHER THE POTENTIAL NOR THE IDEA AS FAR AS THAT'S CONCERNED. WE'VE MADE OUR POSITION VERY CLEAR TO THE AMERICANS. WE WANT CERTAIN GUARANTEES BEFORE WE SIGN THAT TREATY AND UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE HAVE THOSE GUARANTEES, THEN THE STATUS QUO WILL REMAIN.

FCO PASS SAVING TO VIENNA.

SUMMERHAYES

03/06/2010 14:32

F I L E S
ACDR
CS
NEWS DEPT
N D
ES & SD
UND
SIR A DUFF
MR MOBERLY

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]