

August 30, 1977

**Telegram, Statement by South African Finance
Minister O.P.F. Horwood on South Africa's Nuclear
Intentions**

Citation:

"Telegram, Statement by South African Finance Minister O.P.F. Horwood on South Africa's Nuclear Intentions", August 30, 1977, Wilson Center Digital Archive, South African Foreign Affairs Archives, Kernkrag. Obtained and contributed by Anna-Mart van Wyk. <https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/116889>

Summary:

In a statement Horwood said that South Africa's nuclear program was for peaceful purposes, but that if it choose to, the country would make the decision to develop weapons "according to its own needs and it alone would make the decision."

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

3 LOC94
 CONGRESS - BOMB TWO - DUBBAN. OF THE PARTY SEN HOWWOOD SAID SOUTH-
 SPEAKING AT THE CONGRESS OF THE PARTY SEN HOWWOOD SAID SOUTH-
 AFRICA HAD GIVEN THE ASSURANCE THAT ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM WAS AIMED
 AT PLACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND STOOD BY THAT ASSURANCE.
 BUT IF SOUTH AFRICA DECIDED TO USE ITS NUCLEAR POTENTIAL IN
 ANY OTHER WAY IT WOULD DO SO ACCORDING TO ITS OWN NEEDS AND IT ALONE
 WOULD MAKE THE DECISION.
 + I FOR ONE OBJECT ABSOLUTELY AND ENTIRELY THAT ANYONE SHOULD
 TELL US WHAT WE SHOULD DO.
 SEN HOWWOOD SAID THE RUSSIANS HAD RAISED THE STORM OF SOUTH
 AFRICA HAVING A NUCLEAR DEVICE AND WAS PREPARING TO TEST IT AT
 A SITE IN THE KALAHARI. THE AMERICANS HAD TAKEN UP THE CRY AND
 HAD BEEN FOLLOWED BY OTHERS.
 + THE LATEST WAS THE NEW LITTLE FOREIGN MINISTER OF FRANCE, WHO
 WHEN HE ARRIVED IN DAR-ES-SALAM HAD WAS CONFORTED BY A FEW PRO-
 TESTING BLACKS, RUSHED OFF HOME TO FRANCE. THIS WAS THE SORT OF PER-
 SON TRYING TO TELL SOUTH AFRICA WHAT SHE SHOULD DO.
 MORE.

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3 LOC97
 CONGRESS BOMB THREE LAST DBN

PRESIDENT CARTER OF THE UNITED STATES DID WHAT HE LIKED
 AND IN SO DOING SAID + RIGHT IS RIGHT +
 ALTHOUGH SOUTH AFRICA WAS A SMALL COUNTRY SHE WOULD NOT
 BE PUSHED AROUND BY OTHERS AND HAD THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE ITS
 OWN DESTINY.
 SEN HOWWOOD SAID IN A MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS THAT FORTUN-
 ATELY SOUTH AFRICA WAS A STRONG AND AFFLUENT COUNTRY.
 + BUT OUR GREATIST SOURCE OF WEALTH LIES IN THE GOOD SENSE,
 THE RESOLUTION AND TENACITY OF PURPOSE OF OUR PEOPLE AND OUR
 LEADERS.
 + SOUTH AFRICA HAS SUCCEEDED TO AN OUTSTANDING DEGREE IN
 WITHSTANDING THE SUSTAINED ONSLAUGHT ON HER SPIRITUAL VALUES
 AND HER ECONOMY AND, ALTHOUGH WE CLEARLY STILL HAVE PROBLEMS,
 THERE ARE CONVINCING SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE BALANCE OF
 PAYMENTS, THE RATE OF INFLATION AND THE IMPORT-AND EXPORT TRADE.
 + BY KEEPING COOL HEADS AND PRESERVING A SENSE OF PROSPERITY
 FROM OUR TRU COURSE OF ACTION.
 + THOSE WHO WOULD DISTURB OUR DOMESTIC SECURITY MUST SUFFER
 THE CONSEQUENCES. OUR GOVERNMENT HAS DEMONSTRATED THROUGHOUT
 ITS WILLINGNESS AND ITS ABILITY TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER UNDER
 ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. THE INDUSTRIAL PEACE ENJOYED IN THE REPUBLIC
 IS THE ENVY OF THE WORLD. + HE SAID.

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 LOC100
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SUBS - PEE INSERT THE FOLLOWING AFTER SECOND PAR OF LOC 94
 - CONGRESS BOMB TWO DBN, ANDING ... WOULD WAK THE D. CISION.
 + I THINK IT IS TIME WE TOLD MR CARTER AND A FEW OTHERS
 PEOPLE THAT IF WE DID AT ANY TIME WISH TO DO OTHER THINGS WITH
 OUR NUCLEAR POTENTIAL WE WILL SOLELY WILL DO SO ACCORDING TO OUR
 OWN DECISIONS AND OUR OWN JUDGMENT.
 (PICK UP THIRD PAR ... + I FOR ONE ...)
 SAPA

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SNAP 'e'e'e'e'e'e'e'e'e'e'
CONGRESS-BOMB
DURBAN AUG 30 SAPA

SOUTH AFRICA RESERVED THE RIGHT TO USE ITS NUCLEAR POTENTIAL FOR OTHER THAN PEACEFUL PURPOSES SHOULD THE NEED ARISE, THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND NATAL LEADER OF THE NATIONAL PARTY, SENATOR O P F HORWOOD SAID HERE TODAY.

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