

August 5, 1994

**Cable, South African Department of Foreign Affairs,
Forwarding Copy of Armscor Letter to Mission in
Washington**

Citation:

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Summary:

Copy of a letter to Washington that discusses reforms to make Armscor more centralized.

Credits:

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English

Contents:

Original Scan

(file) 32/2

TO: MA791 E Sub-Dir: Kern, Militêre Skakeling en On
 MA792 E NON PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT
 MA793 E Sub-dir: Non-Proliferation and Disarmam
 MA794 E Kern, Militêre Skakeling en Ontwapening

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

DATE: AUGUST 5, 1994

FOR INFO AND FILING. THANKS PETER.

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+DOKUMENTNOMMER.

94vhkwa0928pa

BT

AFHANDELINGSVOORRANG/BELANGRIKHEID

Prioriteit

+KODES.

256

+LEERNOMMER.

GEEN

+SEKERHEIDSKLASSIFIKASIE.

Vertroulik

+DATUM.

19940805/13:54

+AFSENDER.

MA79 Non-Proliferation etc: P Goosen

+ONTVANGER VIR AKSIE.

was000 Head of Mission : HH Schwarz

+ONTVANGER TER INLIGTING.

HDOW Environmental Scientific etc: TF Wheeler

DTOK Dir: Scientific, etc: FH Land

DAMS Dir: Americas and Canada: JH de Klerk

OA10 Subdir: USA & Canada:

+ONDERWERP/VERRYKING.

ARMS CONTROL: CONTACT WITH ARMSCOR

VERSEND AAN

94vhkwa0928pa

+INHOUD.

1. The Department has received a copy of a letter from Armscor to the Mission in Washington:

QUOTE

Dear Paul

EXPORT CONTROL INFORMATION

Herewith, please find all the relative information as requested by yourself for dissemination to the US State Department.

In SA one still finds a decentralized control philosophy present in the SA Police Service controlling commercial arms and ammunition, Armscor controls all armaments and MTCR-related products and the Department of Trade and Industry controls non-proliferation aspects covered by the various treaties and regimes. There are, needless to say, duplication in the various control functions and legislation.

I am present involved in the structuring of a National Arms Control Policy and it will be one of the aims of this document to state a centralized control philosophy under a new Department of Defence that is also in the process of being formed.

With reference to our discussions on the USA's required "Foreign Company Compliance Program" (in relation to the ISC court case), it is again stressed that we would very

much appreciate an opportunity to visit the State Department in this regard to discuss their requirements and to determine to what extent South Africa is already complying.

Your kind attention to this matter is much appreciated.

Yours faithfully

JJ VAN DYK

UNQUOTE

2. As the Mission will have noted from recent reports which you have received from the Department (please see our hkwa0637 dated 19940709, hkwa0909 dated 19940803, and hkwa0922 dated 19940804) the entire system of non-proliferation controls, both for weapons of mass destruction and conventional armaments, is currently under review. The Department has, for example, prepared a draft policy on these issues which is being considered for approval; we have also conducted a detailed evaluation of Armscor's arms control system. As you will have noticed from the letter which was sent from Minister Nzo to his colleague, the Minister of Defence, we have identified several problem areas within the Armscor system. This matter is currently at a sensitive stage. It was for this reason that when we provided you with a copy of the Minister's letter you were (and are still) requested to treat the matter as most confidential. It was decided to provide the Mission with that information only as background in your discussions with the State Department.
3. The Mission is reminded that all enquiries of this nature and regarding these matters should be directed through the Department. This is especially so in view of the sensitivity surrounding this issue both as it relates to our analysis of Armscor's control system, and as it effects the image which we are endeavouring to establish for South Africa as a non-proliferator and as a responsible possessor of advanced technologies. In view of the recommendations contained in the Minister's letter it will therefore also be appreciated if you could consult with the Department about the material which you have received from Armscor BEFORE "disseminating" it to the State Department.
4. The Mission's cooperation is appreciated.

BT
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