

**October 24, 1977**  
**Letter from C.L.G. Mallaby to Mr. Hervey, 'South  
African Nuclear Intentions.'**

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**Summary:**

Mallaby addresses Sir David Scott's 6 October letter concerning the possible South African nuclear test site in the Kalahari desert.

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Mr Hervey  
PUSD

SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR INTENTIONS

You have received a copy of Sir David Scott's letter of 6 October to Mr Reid.

2. As you know, the FCO have recently informed No 10 about US views on the nature of the Kalahari facility. Sir David Scott's letter adds some further points. But I think they require assessing in Whitehall before we can decide whether they should be submitted to No 10. One question is whether the activity which has been continuing at the Kalahari site makes it possible to judge more clearly the nature of that facility. Another question is whether the evidence we have is compatible with the South Africans conducting non nuclear explosions at the site; and does the fact that they talk of non-nuclear explosions help us to diagnose the purpose of the site?
3. As a first step, I suggest that you might consult the experts in the Ministry of Defence.

*C L G Mallaby*

C L G Mallaby  
ACDD

24 October 1977

cc.  
Mr Thomas, Assessments Staff, Cabinet Office  
Mr O'Hara, ACDD  
Mr Reid, CSAD

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