

October 24, 1977

**Telegram from South African Embassy in
Washington to South African Secretary for Foreign
Affairs Brand Fourie on South African Assurances to
the US on its Nuclear Intentions**

Citation:

"Telegram from South African Embassy in Washington to South African Secretary for Foreign Affairs Brand Fourie on South African Assurances to the US on its Nuclear Intentions", October 24, 1977, Wilson Center Digital Archive, South African Foreign Affairs Archives. Obtained and contributed by Anna-Mart van Wyk.
<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/116648>

Summary:

The South African Embassy in Washington reports on assurances to the US on South Africa's nuclear intentions

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY)

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

COPY NO. 2
FILE NO.

RECEIVED OFFICE : 24 OCTOBER 1977 (2330)

IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM

FROM : S.A. EMBASSY, WASHINGTON
TO : SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PRETORIA
DESPATCHED : 24 OCTOBER 1977 (1315)

=====

NO. 397 SECRET

FOR SECRETARY

MY NO. 396.

I THINK IT WOULD SUFFICE IF I WERE AUTHORIZED TO TELL THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BY WAY OF SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENT, THAT WHAT WAS CONVEYED TO BOWDLER, REPEATED IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S PUBLIC STATEMENT ON AUGUST 24 AND AGAIN IN HIS LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT, WAS A FIRM DECLARATION OF POLICY WHICH REMAINS UNCHANGED BUT THAT ONE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT DOES NOT "PROMISE" SOMETHING TO ANOTHER HEAD OF GOVERNMENT.

/fd

VQ

3-0291 SA

I M M E D I A T E

FROM : SALEG WASHINGTON
TO : SECEXTERN PRETORIA
24/10/77 (1220)



NO 396.

FOR SECRETARY. OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION REFERS.

FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARISING IN PARTICULAR OUT OF AN ARTICLE IN TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST ENTITLED "NO PLEDGE ON A. ARMS, VORSTER SAYS" REPORTING ON YESTERDAY'S TELEVISION INTERVIEW.

BEGINS

IN CONNECTION WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S OCTOBER 23 TELEVISION INTERVIEW CONCERNING RECENT EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH AFRICA ON NUCLEAR MATTERS, THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

ON AUGUST 20, 1977, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE OUR AMBASSADOR IN PRETORIA ASKED THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR ASSURANCES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA ON THREE POINTS:

FIRST, THAT SOUTH AFRICA DOES NOT HAVE OR INTEND TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES FOR ANY PURPOSES, PEACEFUL OR OTHERWISE.

SECOND, THAT THE KALAHARI FACILITY WE HAD DESCRIBED TO THEM IS NOT A TESTING FACILITY FOR NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES.

THIRD, THAT THERE WILL BE NO NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE TESTING AT ANY TIME IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE NEXT DAY, AUGUST 21, 1977, THE SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISED OUR AMBASSADOR THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAD AUTHORISED HIM TO PROVIDE THE REQUESTED ASSURANCE ON ALL THREE POINTS.

THESE FORMAL ASSURANCES WERE REPEATED IN A LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER VORSTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER, TRANSMITTED ON OCTOBER 13.

ENDS

SALEG#

3-0291 SA

440300 SALEG UI

VIA ITT 10/24/77 1234 EDT

The Prime Minister stands by the exposition which he has given on many occasions in the past and recently again to President Carter on the exclusively peaceful nature of South Africa's nuclear policy and programme.

Since this has always been, and continues to be, South Africa's policy which it has decided on independently for itself, it is not appropriate in such a context to suggest that "promises" had been exacted.

REIGN AFFAIRS
ITELANDSE SAKÉ

In reply to questions raised by the United States Government in regard to nuclear matters, the South African Government reiterated its long-standing policy, which remains unchanged. This was confirmed in a letter from the Prime Minister to the President, and in his TV interview of October 23, Mr Vorster again repeated his Government's policy of developing nuclear energy for peaceful uses only.

Since this has always been South Africa's policy which it has decided on independently for itself, the question of "promises" never arose. ~~At~~ least of all in the context that "promises" had been exacted. ~~At~~

Nota.

— Die gedeelte in hakies kan miskien bygevoeg word veral met die oog op plaaslike oorwegings

Ja die gedeelte in hakies moet bygevoeg word.

RFBauma