

October 25, 1977

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

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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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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
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MR MOBERLY

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]