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TO IMMEDIATE THE HAGUE  
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OF 231700Z JUNE 86  
INFO IMMEDIATE PRETORIA  
INFO PRIORITY OTHER EC POSTS

SOUTH AFRICA

1. VAN DEN BROEK TELEPHONED THE SECRETARY OF STATE AT 3 PM THIS AFTERNOON. HIS FIRST QUESTION WAS ABOUT RECENT PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING A POSSIBLY HOWE VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA. THE SECRETARY OF STATE EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS NO MORE THAN A POSSIBILITY, AND THAT NO FIRM DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN. VAN DEN BROEK SAID THAT IF THE SECRETARY OF STATE WISHED TO GO IN HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAPACITY THEN EC COLLEAGUES WOULD NO DOUBT WISH TO CONSIDER THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP AND WHAT HIS MANDATE SHOULD BE. IN ALL FRANKNESS, HE ADDED, THERE MIGHT BE SOME RESERVATIONS IF THE TRIP SEEMED ON ANALYSIS TO BE NO MORE THAN A GESTURE DESIGNED TO POSTPONE FURTHER DECISIONS BY THE TWELVE. BUT IF THE AIM WAS RATHER TO TAKE DECISIONS AND COUPLE TO THAT FURTHER CONTACTS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS, THEN THAT WOULD OF COURSE BE A DIFFERENT MATTER.
2. VAN DEN BROEK THEN RAISED THE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS PLANNED FOR THURSDAY MORNING. NEITHER GENSCHER NOR RAIMOND WOULD BE THERE. BUT THE PRESIDENCY INTENDED TO HAVE THE MEETING

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ANYWAY. THE SECRETARY OF STATE CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD BE PRESENT. VAN DEN BROEK ADDED THAT THE KEY DUTCH PREOCCUPATION WAS TO AVOID A DIFFUSE AND DISUNITED OUTCOME TO DISCUSSION OF SOUTH AFRICA BY THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

3. VAN DEN BROEK SPOKE OF VARIOUS QUOTE SIGNALS UNQUOTE THE PRESIDENCY HAD RECENTLY HAD FROM SOUTH AFRICA. SOME ELEMENTS IN THE SAG APPARENTLY FELT THAT THE WORK OF COMGEP HAD COME TO A PREMATURE CONCLUSION. BLACK REPRESENTATIVES FOR THEIR PART WERE KEENLY INTERESTED IN WHAT THE NEXT EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEBATE MIGHT BE.

4. VAN DEN BROEK THEN ENQUIRED ABOUT THE UK POSITION. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID WE REMAINED CONCERNED THAT ANY FURTHER MEASURES WOULD BE LIABLE TO DAMAGE THE INTERESTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS. VAN DEN BROEK ADMITTED THE FORCE OF THAT, BUT COMMENTED THAT HE HAD THE STRONG IMPRESSION FROM HIS TALKS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR IN THE HAGUE THAT FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF FURTHER SANCTIONS THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE SEARCHING FRANTICALLY FOR WAYS OF RE-STARTING THE DIALOGUE. THE SECRETARY OF STATE POINTED OUT THAT SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADORS HAD OFTEN IN THE PAST HELD OUT THE PROMISE OF FURTHER MOVEMENT ONLY FOR US TO BE DISAPPOINTED.

5. FINALLY, VAN DEN BROEK RAISED UK PRESS REPORTS ACCORDING TO WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID THAT THE SMALL MEMBER STATES WERE WILLING ONLY TO AGREE ON MEASURES WHICH CAUSED THEM NO PAIN. HE WANTED TO STRESS THAT IF THE UK HAD DIFFICULTIES WITH EG THE PROPOSAL FOR A BAN ON THE IMPORT OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES THEN THE NETHERLANDS FOR ITS PART WOULD CERTAINLY BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ONE ON THE IMPORT OF EG IRON AND STEEL, WHICH WOULD BE FAR FROM COST-FREE FOR THEM.

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