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HEADER

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3024(i) RUCJBBA/UCCINCCENT(b)(3):50 USC
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USC 3024(i)

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USC 3024(i) RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC/(b)(3):50 USC
3024(i) RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC/

UEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

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3024(i) RUETIAA/DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD//(b)(3):50 USC
3024(i) RUEADWD/DA WASHINGTON DC//(b)(3):50 USC
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424 BT

CONTROLS

~~SECRET NOFORN WINTTEL~~

SERIAL: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) SOUTH AFRICA (SF); BAHRAIN (BA);
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (TC).

(b)(3):10 USC
424 UBJ: [REDACTED] / SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC DIFFICULTIES IN
THE PERSIAN GULF REGION (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

(b)(3):10 USC
424

EQS: (U) [REDACTED]

SUMMARY: ~~(S/NF/WN)~~ SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMATS IN THE GULF HAVE BEEN
EMBARRASSED BY PRESIDENT MANDELA'S ORDER FOR VICE PRESIDENT DE
KLERK TO CANCEL HIS VISIT TO THE AREA. ADDITIONALLY, A SOUTH
AFRICAN SHIP SCHEDULED TO CONDUCT PORT CALLS IN THE GULF HAD
BROKEN

DOWN IN ABU DHABI.

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

TEXT: 1. ~~(S/NF/WN)~~ [REDACTED]

AS OF EARLY APRIL 1995, SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT NELSON
((MANDELA)) HAD DIRECTED VICE PRESIDENT FREDERIK ((DE KLERK)) TO
CANCEL HIS SCHEDULED APRIL VISIT TO BAHRAIN. D E KLERK HAD EARLIER
ACCEPTED AN OFFER TO BE THE GUEST SPEAKER AT AN ECONOMIC
CONFERENCE

TO BE HELD IN BAHRAIN, AND HAD PLANNED TO VISIT FROM 10 TO 12 APRIL
1995. AS A RESULT OF THE MANDELA DIRECTIVE, THE SOUTH AFRICAN
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) DIRECTED THE SOUTH AFRICAN
MISSION IN BAHRAIN TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN AND THE
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE OF THE TRIP CANCELLATION, CAUSING
CONSIDERABLE

EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE DIPLOMATS IN MANAMA, WHO HAD SPENT
CONSIDERABLE TIME AND EFFORT TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH
SENIOR

BAHRAINI OFFICIALS. THE SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION WAS FURTHER
EMBARRASSED WHEN THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE INFORMED THEM
THAT

PROGRAMS FOR THE ECONOMIC CONFERENCE, REFLECTING DE KLERK'S
SCHEDULED PRESENTATION, HAD ALREADY BEEN PRINTED AND
DISTRIBUTED TO

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

ATTENDEES. AS A FACE-SAVING MEASURE, THE DFA ANNOUNCED THAT IT
WOULD SEND A REPLACEMENT FOR DE KLERK.

2. ~~(S/NF/WN)~~ [REDACTED] DFA OFFICIALS POSTED
ABROAD HAVE BEEN PLAGUED WITH SIMILAR LAST MINUTE T RIP
CANCELLATIONS BY SENIOR SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE
SCHEDULED

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

VISITS TO COUNTRIES THAT HAVE RECENTLY OPENED DIPLOMATIC TIES
WITH
SOUTH AFRICA. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3. ~~(S/NF/WN)~~ COMPOUNDING PROBLEMS AND EMBARRASSMENT FOR DFA OFFICIALS IN THE GULF REGION, SAS DRAKENSBERG, WHICH CARRIED SOUTH AFRICAN ARMS DISPLAYS TO THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS EXHIBITION IDEX-95 IN ABU DHABI, DEVELOPED A PROBLEM WITH ITS ENGINE SEVERE ENOUGH TO PREVENT THE SHIP FROM LEAVING PORT IN ABU DHABI AND COMPLETING A SERIES OF SCHEDULED CALLS AT GULF PORTS. DRAKENSBERG WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR A RECEPTION ABOARD DURING HER PORT VISIT TO BAHRAIN ON 5 APRIL 1995. AGAIN, SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMATS WERE EMBARRASSED TO INFORM INVITEES OF THE RECEPTION CANCELLATION. AS OF EARLY APRIL, THE DIPLOMATS WERE STILL ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN THE REQUIRED PARTS TO REPAIR DRAKENSBERG AND MOVE THEM TO ABU DHABI.

4. ~~(S/NF/WN)~~ THE SCHEDULED VISITS TO GULF PORTS BY DRAKENSBERG HIGHLIGHT A MANPOWER SHORTAGE IN THE DFA AND ITS EMBASSIES. UNLIKE OTHER NATIONS, SOUTH AFRICA HAS FEW EMBASSIES WITH RESIDENT MILITARY ATTACHES TO MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHIP VISITS.

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

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