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ENVELOPE

(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

HEADER

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202158Z MAR 97
(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i) FM DIA WASHINGTON DC/ [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

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INFO RUEALGX/SAFE WASH DC

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CONTROLS

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PASS: [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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REPRESENT
THE VIEWS OF THE ORIGINATING ORGANIZATION AND MAY NOT REFLECT A
COORDINATED DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE POSITION.

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SERIAL: MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIGEST {MID} 079-3A

SECTION 1 OF 2

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICA: UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR FORMER CBW DIRECTOR. (U)
DOI: 20 MAR 97 {AS OF 1615 EST}
TEXT: 1. (U) THE OVERALL CLASSIFICATION OF THIS MESSAGE

(b)(3):10 USC 424 IS ~~SECRET~~ [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

2. (S) THE ARREST OF DR WOUTER BASSON, THE FORMER SOUTH AFRICAN
CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE (CBW) PROGRAM DIRECTOR, HAS

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MANDELA'S DISPOSAL. SINCE DR BASSON WAS THE ONLY PERSON WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROGRAM, HE DOUBTLESSLY MADE BACKUP DISKS THAT HE HAS IN SAFEKEEPING. THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (NIA) BELIEVES BASSON TO BE IN POSSESSION OF BACKUP DISKS AS WELL. ACCORDING TO AN NIA OFFICIAL, "IF THIS EXPERTISE FELL INTO THE WRONG HANDS, SAY A TERRORIST GROUP, IT WOULD BE A DISASTER."

9. ~~(S)~~ PRETORIA'S OFFER TO PLACE DR BASSON IN AN NIA SAFETY NET FOLLOWS A COURSE ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE COMMITTED DURING APARTHEID. IT TAKES BASSON OUT OF PUBLIC VIEW, KEEPS HIM GAINFULLY EMPLOYED, AND PLACES HIM UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION. THIS OPTION SERVES SOUTH AFRICA BY RESTRICTING BASSON'S ABILITY TO REVEAL SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY

(b)(1),Sec.
1.4(e),Sec.
1.4(d)

HOWEVER, CONDITIONS MAY BE IMPOSED THAT WOULD NOT BE TO BASSON'S LIKING. BASSON WAS ARRESTED IN LATE JANUARY FOR POSSESSION OF ILLICIT DRUGS. IF HE IS CONVICTED ON NARCOTICS CHARGES, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN SOUTH AFRICA. HIS ARREST ALONE ALSO TARNISHES HIS CREDENTIALS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL CONTROL REGIMES. DR BASSON HAS A STRONG EGO, IS HYPERACTIVE, AND IS USED TO BEING IN CHARGE. FACED WITH BEING RELEGATED TO OBSCURITY OR PRISON, HE VERY LIKELY WILL CHOOSE TO LEAVE SOUTH AFRICA.

10. ~~(S/UC)~~ ALTHOUGH BASSON'S PASSPORT WAS SURRENDERED DURING HIS BAIL TRIAL, IT WAS LATER RETURNED. THE DOCTOR PROBABLY HAS SEVERAL FAKE PASSPORTS AT HIS DISPOSAL AS WELL. IF BASSON WERE TO FLEE THE COUNTRY, HIS MOST LIKELY DESTINATION WOULD BE LIBYA, WHERE HIS CBW

(b)(1),Sec.
1.4(c),Sec.
1.4(d)

***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/
EXPERTISE WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED.

THROUGH HIS LIBYAN CONNECTIONS, BASSON PROBABLY IS AWARE OF WHAT HIS CBW EXPERTISE WOULD MEAN TO THE LIBYAN CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE PROGRAMS. THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED AT A HIGH LEVEL IN THE LIBYAN CBW PROGRAM MAY ENTICE BASSON TO LEAVE SOUTH AFRICA AND HIS LEGAL TROUBLES BEHIND.

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ADMIN

DERIVED FROM: MULTIPLE SOURCES

~~DECLASSIFY ON: SOURCE MARKED "OADR"~~

DATE OF SOURCE: JUNE 1996

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