

~~SECRET//NF~~

**ENVELOPE**

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

**HEADER**

P  
181138Z MAY 97  
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

RUEALGX/SAFE  
P

181121Z MAY 97

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

TO RUEWEDA/CSA WASHDC

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

PRIORITY

INFO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC  
BT

**CONTROLS**

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 03

(b)(3):10 USC 424

~~SECRET~~ 124-97

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

**BODY**

SUBJECT: SCENE SETTER FOR CHIEF OF STAFF ARMY'S VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA - MAY 97 (U)

1. (U) PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE GENERAL REIMER WITH BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR HIS TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA.
2. (U) MAJOR POINTS OF INTEREST:
  - A. ~~(S)~~ POLITICAL SITUATION. SOUTH AFRICA ENTERED THE FINAL STAGE OF ITS TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IN MAY 1994 WHEN NELSON MANDELA WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF A FIVE-YEAR INTERIM, COALITION GOVERNMENT. FORMER STATE

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PRESIDENT F.W. DE KLERK'S NATIONAL PARTY (NP) AND ZULU LEADER MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI'S INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY (IFP) FINISHED A DISTANT SECOND AND THIRD IN THE VOTING, BUT JOINED MANDELA'S AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC) AS THE ONLY THREE POLITICAL PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH THE ANC HOLDS 62 PERCENT OF THE SEATS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, IT LACKS THE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY REQUIRED TO DOMINATE THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

Non Responsive

DESPITE THE NP'S WITHDRAWAL, AND OCCASIONAL HEATED RHETORIC BETWEEN MANDELA AND BUTHELEZI AND ANC/IFP FACTIONAL VIOLENCE, THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS RELATIVELY STABLE. THIS IS LARGELY THE RESULT OF MANDELA'S PERSONAL STATESMANSHIP AND HIS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION BY BROAD FACTIONAL PARTICIPATION. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY BLACK AND WHITE EXTREMISTS FROM BOTH ENDS OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, THESE SMALL GROUPS HAVE BEEN MARGINALIZED OVER THE PAST YEARS.

WITH THE NATIONAL PARTY'S WITHDRAWAL, THABO MBEKI BECAME THE SOLE DEPUTY PRESIDENT. MANDELA HAS INDICATED HE WILL NOT RUN FOR REELECTION IN 1999, AND MBEKI IS BEING GROOMED AS HIS SUCCESSOR.

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THE LAST 3 PAGES ARE  
NON RESPONSIVE AND  
ARE NOT INCLUDED.

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-- SINCE MAY 1994 SANDF LEADERS HAVE BEEN INTEGRATING FORMER GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION GROUP (NON-STATUTORY) MILITARY PERSONNEL INTO ONE UNIFIED FORCE. THE AGREEMENT TO INTEGRATE THESE SEVEN FORCES WAS A KEY ELEMENT IN THE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE FORMER WHITE REGIME AND BLACK OPPOSITION FACTIONS LED BY MANDELA'S ANC.

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