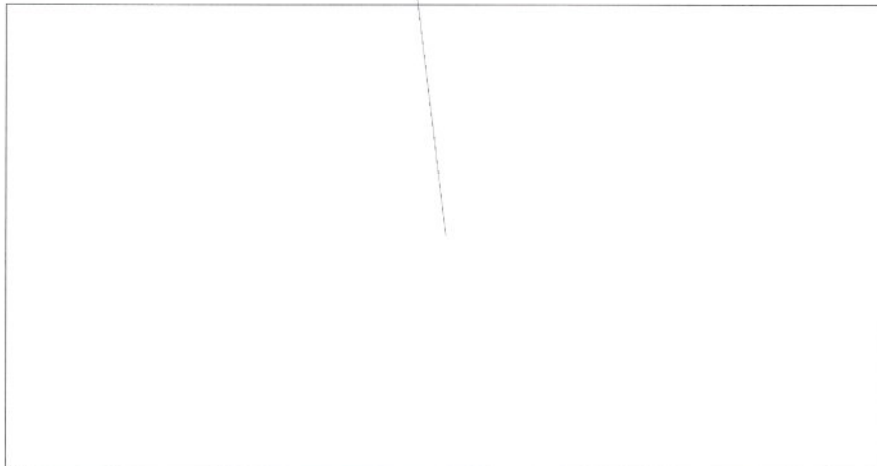


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SERIAL: (U)

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) ARGENTINA (AR); SOUTH AFRICA (SF).

(b)(3):10 USC 424

SUBJ: COMMENTS FROM WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS ON THEIR COUNTRY'S DIRECTION (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~.

- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 951022.

(b)(1)(b)(3):10 USC 424 Sec 1.4(c)

SUMMARY: (C) SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS ARE UNEASY ABOUT THE COUNTRY'S POLITICS AND THEIR OWN PROSPECTS AS PUBLIC SERVANTS. INTERNAL DISSENT OVER THE OPENING OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN CUBA AND IRAN IS REBUFFED WITH THE EXPLANATION THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS DEBTS TO THOSE COUNTRIES.

TEXT: 1. (C) WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS ARE INCREASINGLY UNEASY WITH BOTH THE OFFICIAL ACTIONS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT AND UNOFFICIAL NEWS AND RUMORS FROM HOME. THE ULTIMATE SOURCE OF THEIR UNEASINESS STEMS FROM THE GROWING PERCEPTION THAT THE INITIAL EUPHORIA FOSTERED AMONG SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES BY THE SURPRISINGLY CONCILIATORY POLICIES OF PRESIDENT NELSON ((MANDELA)) IN HIS FIRST YEAR OF POWER MAY BE SHORT LIVED. INDEED, WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS SEE MOVEMENT WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT WHICH INDICATES A POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC) WHICH THEY FEAR WILL PRODUCE A FAR MORE RADICAL GOVERNMENT AFTER MANDELA PASSES ON.

2. (C) AS AN EXAMPLE, AMONG THE NEW SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OPENED RECENTLY ARE THOSE IN CUBA AND IRAN. IN RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC OBJECTIONS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MISSIONS, THE FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTEDLY INFORMED ITS PERSONNEL ABROAD THAT THE OFFICIAL POSITION IS THAT THOSE TWO MISSIONS WILL BE ESTABLISHED NO MATTER WHAT BECAUSE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS A LONG STANDING DEBT TO BOTH OF THOSE COUNTRIES.

(b)(1)Sec 1.4(c)

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3. (C) OTHER DISTURBING DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDE AN ANC PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A PENSION FOR ALL FORMER SOUTH AFRICAN "FREEDOM FIGHTERS." THE PROPOSAL ALLEGEDLY CALLS FOR A LIFE-LONG PENSION FOR ALL BONA FIDE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY ARMS OF THE ANC, THE PAN-AFRICANIST CONGRESS (PAC), AND THE AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (AZAPO). THE PENSIONS WOULD START AT 1000 RAND (APPROXIMATELY USD 263.70) PER MONTH FOR THE FORMER RANK AND FILE GUERRILLA AND INCREASE ACCORDING TO RANK AND POSITION WITHIN THE RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS. DEPENDING UPON HOW PROSPECTIVE RECIPIENTS WOULD BE IDENTIFIED AND VALIDATED, THE COST OF THIS PROPOSAL COULD BECOME ASTRONOMICAL IF IT WERE IMPLEMENTED. ADDITIONALLY, NO SIMILAR PROPOSAL HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD CONCERNING FORMER NATIONAL SERVICEMEN OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE.

4. (C) PERHAPS MOST OMINOUS OF ALL IS THE UNDENIABLE DISSATISFACTION IN A LARGE PORTION OF THE BLACK MAJORITY OF SOUTH AFRICA WITH THE PERCEIVED FAILURE OF MANDELA'S GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE APPRECIABLY THE ECONOMIC DISPENSATION IN THE COUNTRY. WHILE MANDELA'S PERSONAL POPULARITY HAS KEPT A LID ON TENSIONS, WHITES SENSE AN ANC INTERNAL POWER

STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE LIKES OF THABO ((MBEKI)) AND CYRIL ((RAMAPHOSA)), BOTH OF WHOM ARE COURTING THE MOST RADICAL ELEMENTS OF THE ANC FOLLOWING. AS SUCH, WHITE FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS SEE LENGTHY DELAYS IN REPLACEMENT OF KEY FOREIGN SERVICE POSTINGS (I.E., THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES HAS BEEN VACANT FOR TWO MONTHS AND NO REPLACEMENT IS ENVISIONED UNTIL DECEMBER, AT THE EARLIEST) AS AN INDICATOR OF POLITICAL POSTURING AND IN FIGHTING IN PREPARATION FOR THE ULTIMATE PASSING OF MANDELA.

5. (C) OBVIOUSLY, SUCH A SITUATION FOSTERS ANXIETY OVER JOB SECURITY, RETIREMENT, ETC. WHILE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS ARE WELL COMPENSATED OVERSEAS, THEY SEE THEIR PROSPECTS FOR THE BEST POSTINGS INCREASINGLY JEOPARDIZED BY THE ACCESSION OF THE ANC'S OWN PEOPLE TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE. JOBS IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE NOT NEARLY AS WELL COMPENSATED AS OVERSEAS, AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE BACK HOME IS SUFFERING FROM AN INCREASING TAX BURDEN (43 PERCENT FOR EVEN MIDDLE CLASS INCOMES, 16 PERCENT VALUE ADDED TAX ON SALES, ETC.), INCREASING VIOLENT CRIME, AND THE STRESS ASSOCIATED WITH DRAMATIC CHANGES TAKING PLACE POLITICALLY. IT IS THUS NOT SURPRISING THAT VIRTUALLY EVERY WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER SOURCE A KNOWS HAS QUIETLY APPLIED FOR U.S. DIVERSITY IMMIGRANT VISA LOTTERY.

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