

Cable

Declassified Under Authority of the
Interagency Security Classification
Appeals Panel, E.O. 13526, sec. 5.3(b)
(3) ISCAP Appeal No. 2017-190,
document 4 Declassification Date:
May 2, 2022

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~SECRET~~
LINE1: OAASZYUW RUEHSAA9460 3541613-SSSS--RHEHNSC.
LINE2: ZNY SSSSS ZZH
LINE3: O 191613Z DEC 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
OSRI: RUEHSA
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6498
INFO: RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE 0072
1.4(c)
RUCNFB/FBI WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: SAG PERSPECTIVE ON A U.S. TEAM VISIT ON VICTOR BUTT
TEXT: ~~SECRET~~ PRETORIA 009460



STATE DEPT. FOR AF A/S SUSAN RICE AND AF DAS WITNEY
SCHNEIDMAN FROM AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/19/2010
TAGS: KCRM, PREL, PINR, SF
SUBJECT: SAG PERSPECTIVE ON A U.S. TEAM VISIT ON VICTOR BUTT

REF: A. SCHNEIDMAN/PAHAD LETTER OF DECEMBER 15
B. 2000
C. PRETORIA 866Z

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR DELANO E. LEWIS. REASONS 1.5 (B)
AND (D).

1. ~~(S)~~ POST HAS TRIED, SO FAR IN VAIN, TO OBTAIN DFA ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING AN INTERLOCUTOR IN THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS TO DISCUSS A PROSECUTORIAL STRATEGY AGAINST ARMS MERCHANT VICTOR BUTT. IT NOW APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT AN INTERLOCUTOR WILL BE FOUND UNTIL AFTER THE SOUTH AFRICAN HOLIDAY SEASON, O/A JANUARY 8.
2. ~~(S)~~ PRIOR TO, AND THEN FOLLOWING UP ON DAS SCHNEIDMAN'S LETTER TO DEPUTY FM AZIZ PAHAD OF DEC. 15 (REF A), POST DISCUSSED WITH DFA CHIEF DIRECTOR OF ARMS CONTROL PETER GOOSEN DAS SCHNEIDMAN'S DESIRE TO LEAD A USG TEAM TO SOUTH AFRICA TO TALK ABOUT A PROSECUTORIAL STRATEGY AGAINST DUTT WITH KEY PLAYERS IN DFA AND THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS. GOOSEN SAID HE WELCOMED A VISIT, BUT DID NOT KNOW WHO FROM THE KEY OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS (NDPP) COULD BE INVITED TO INTERFACE WITH THE U.S. TEAM. GOOSEN HAD EXPLAINED THAT ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE NDPP HAD BEEN HANDLED PERSONALLY BY DEPUTY FM PAHAD, WHO WAS THEN UNREACHABLE ON A TRIP WITH PRESIDENT MBEKI TO BRAZIL. PAHAD RETURNED TO HIS OFFICE FOR ONLY A FEW HOURS ON

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DECEMBER 18 BEFORE LEAVING ON HOLIDAY. DURING THAT BRIEF WINDOW, HIS PERSONAL ASSISTANT CECELIA COLAROSSO REPORTED TO US, PAHAD READ DAS SCHNEIDMAN'S LETTER BUT HIS ONLY COMMENT WAS THAT THE SAG WAS NOT READY FOR ANOTHER MEETING BECAUSE IT HAD NOT COMPLETED ITS FILE SEARCH ON BUTT.

3. ~~(S)~~ EMBASSY PRETORIA'S POLMILOFF EXPLAINED TO PAHAD'S STAFF AND TO GOOSEN, THAT THE U.S. SIDE WAS NOT WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF THAT RESEARCH, BUT SIMPLY WANTED TO DISCUSS A LEGAL STRATEGY. COLAROSSO GAVE POLMILOFF THE NAME OF KAREN LOCKE, ANOTHER DFA OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE LEGAL STAFF. MS LOCKE CONFIRMED THAT THE ORIGINAL U.S. INFORMATION (REF B) WAS SHARED WITH AN INTERAGENCY GROUP, WHICH INCLUDED A MEMBER OF THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS. LOCKE UNDERTOOK TO IDENTIFY THE MEMBER OF THE OFFICE, BUT WARNED THAT, IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN HOLIDAY SEASON, IT WAS VERY UNLIKELY ANYONE WOULD BE AVAILABLE BEFORE JANUARY 8.

4. ~~(S)~~ I STRONGLY URGE THAT WE WAIT UNTIL AFTER JANUARY 8, WHEN PAHAD RETURNS TO HIS OFFICE, BEFORE PRESSING THE SAG FURTHER FOR A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING WITH A WASHINGTON TEAM ON VICTOR BUTT. OUR AIM IS TO ACHIEVE SOUTH AFRICAN COOPERATION ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE. TO PUSH HARD AT THIS POINT, IN THE FACE OF A CLEAR SAG INDICATION THAT IT IS NOT READY TO MEET, MAY PROVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF PUTTING VICTOR BUTT OUT OF BUSINESS.
LEWIS

TOR: 12/19/00 11:13:48

DIST: SIT: BABBITT BYRNE NSC CLARKER CRESSEY GRANDRIMO HANLEY HARRISG PIERCE
ROSA SMITH WOLOSKY