

**August 18, 1977**

**South African Ambassador to France, 'Unofficial  
Translation of French Aide-Memoire'**

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**Summary:**

Statement from the French embassy in South Africa reaffirming their position that South Africa not pursue a nuclear weapon. Specifically, France sought a clear statement from the South African government that they not "endow [themselves] with means of proceeding with nuclear explosions" or risk continued French-South African cooperation in several areas.

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AMBASSADE DE FRANCE  
EN AFRIQUE DU SUD

Pretoria, 18th August, 1977

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION  
OF THE FRENCH AIDE - MEMOIRE

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Following informations published by the Agency Tass, the French Government, in a public declaration dated 10th August, has emphasized without ambiguity that it would condemn any initiative from South Africa to endow itself with an explosive nuclear capacity. Since then, the Government of the United States has given US elements of appreciation which increase the apprehension of the French Government <sup>and</sup> induce it to tell the Government of South Africa of its very high preoccupation.

I have received instruction to let you know that the French Government considers indispensable that the South African Government proves, without any possible ambiguity, that it does not seek to endow itself with means of proceeding with nuclear explosions. The French Government hopes that the responsible South African authorities will be able to take, to that end, all necessary and convincing steps.

It is to be feared, indeed, that failing such proof, the international tension brought by this affair will keep increasing. There is a serious risk that this question be brought before the Security Council of the United Nations with all the extremely grave consequences that this could imply for South Africa.

Such situation would oblige my Government to reconsider  
its cooperation with yours in many fields./.

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