

August 30, 1977

**Telegram, Statement by South African Finance
Minister O.P.F. Horwood on South Africa's Nuclear
Intentions**

Citation:

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Summary:

In a statement Horwood said that South Africa's nuclear program was for peaceful purposes, but that if it choose to, the country would make the decision to develop weapons "according to its own needs and it alone would make the decision."

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Contents:

Original Scan

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SPEAKING AT THE CONGRESS OF THE PARTY STN HOWWOOD SAID-SOUTH-
AFRICA HAD GIVEN THE ASSURANCE THAT ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAMME WAS AIMED
AT PLACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND STOOD BY THAT ASSURANCE.
BUT IF SOUTH AFRICA DECIDED TO USE ITS NUCLEAR POTENTIAL IN
ANY OTHER WAY IT WOULD DO SO ACCORDING TO ITS OWN NEEDS AND IT ALONE
WOULD MAKE THE DECISION.
+ FOR ONE REJECT ABSOLUTELY AND ENTIRELY THAT ANYONE SHOULD

TELL US WHAT WE SHOULD DO.

SEN. HOWWOOD SAID THE RUSSIANS HAD RAISED THE STORM OF SOUTH
AFRICA HAVING A NUCLEAR DEVICE AND WAS PREPARING TO TEST IT AT
A SITE IN THE KALAHARI. THE AMERICANS HAD TAKEN UP THE CRY AND
HAD BEEN FOLLOWED BY OTHERS.

+ THE LATEST WAS THE NEW LITTLE FOREIGN MINISTER OF FRANCE, WHO
WHEN HE ARRIVED IN DARIUS-SILAM HAD WAS CONFIDENT BY A FIRM PRO-
TESTING BLACKS, RUSHED OFF HOME TO FRANCE. THIS WAS THE SORT OF PER-
SON TRYING TO TELL SOUTH AFRICA WHAT SHE SHOULD DO.

MORE.

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CONGRESS BOMB THREE LAST DBN

PRESIDENT CARTER OF THE UNITED STATES DID WHAT HE LIKED
AND IN SO DOING SAID +RIGHT IS RIGHT.+

ALTHOUGH SOUTH AFRICA WAS A SMALL COUNTRY SHE WOULD NOT
BE PUSHED AROUND BY OTHERS AND HAD THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE ITS
OWN DESTINY.

SEN. HOWWOOD SAID IN A MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS THAT FORTUN-
ATELY SOUTH AFRICA WAS A STRONG AND AFFLUENT COUNTRY.

+ BUT OUR GREATTEST SOURCE OF WEALTH LIES IN THE GOOD SENSE,
THE RESOLUTION AND TENACITY OF PURPOSE OF OUR PEOPLE AND OUR
LEADERS.

+ SOUTH AFRICA HAS SUCCEEDED TO AN OUTSTANDING DEGREE IN
WITHSTANDING THE SUSTAINED ONSLAUGHT ON HER SPIRITUAL VALUES
AND HER ECONOMY AND, ALTHOUGH WE CLEARLY STILL HAVE PROBLEMS,
THERE ARE CONVINCING SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE BALANCE OF
PAYMENTS, THE RATE OF INFLATION AND THE IMPORT-AND EXPORT TEND.

+ BY KEEPING COOL HEADS AND PRESERVING A SENSE OF PROSPER-
TIVE WE WILL THWART THE EFFORTS OF OUR ENEMIES TO DIVERT US
FROM OUR TRUE COURSE OF ACTION.

+ THOSE WHO WOULD DISTURB OUR DOMESTIC SECURITY MUST SUFFER
THE CONSEQUENCES. OUR GOVERNMENT HAS DEMONSTRATED THROUGHOUT
ITS WILLINGNESS AND ITS ABILITY TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER UNDER
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. THE INDUSTRIAL PACE ENJOYED IN THE REPUBLIC
IS THE ENVY OF THE WORLD.+ HE SAID.

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- CONGRESSES BOMB TWO DBN, ENDING ... WOULD MAKE THE DECISION.

+ I THINK IT IS TIME WE TOLD MR. CARTER AND A FEW OTHERS--
PEOPLE THAT IF WE DID AT ANY TIME WISH TO DO OTHER THINGS WITH
OUR NUCLEAR POTENTIAL WE WILL JOEY WILL DO SO ACCORDING TO OUR
OWN DECISIONS AND OUR OWN JUDGMENT.

(PICK UP THIRD PAR ...+ I FOR ONE...)

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CONGRESS-BOMB

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SOUTH AFRICA RESERVED THE RIGHT TO USE ITS NUCLEAR POTENTIAL
FOR OTHER THAN PEACEFUL PURPOSES SHOULD THE NEED ARISE, THE
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND NATAL LEADER OF THE NATIONAL PARTY, SENATOR
O P F HORWOOD SAID HERE TODAY.

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