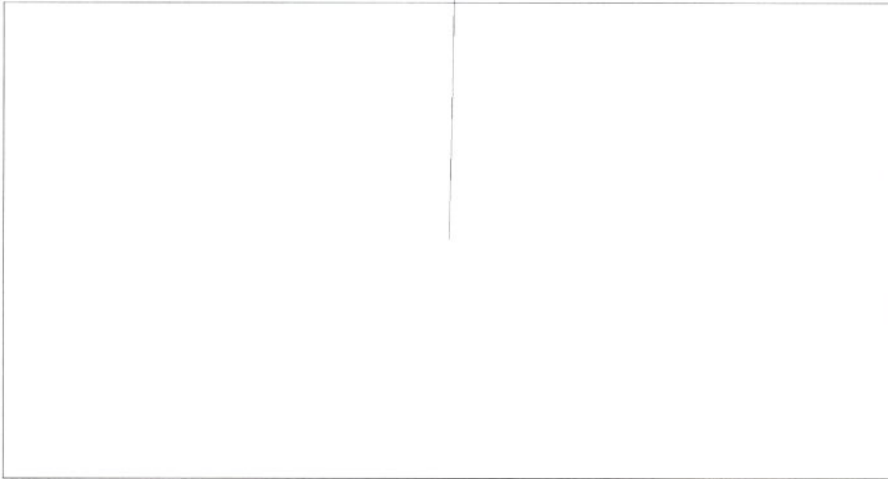


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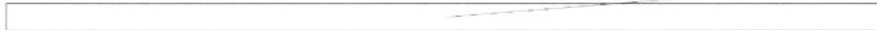
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CONTROLS

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SERIAL: (U)

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) FRANCE (FR); SOUTH AFRICA (SF).

SUBJ: FRANCE WANTS TO INCREASE MILITARY COOPERATION AND ARMAMENTS CONTRACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA (U)

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 960715.

SOURCE: (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "LE FIGARO", PARIS, FRANCE, 960715 (U), IN FRENCH. RIGHT OF CENTER, INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER WHICH USUALLY CONTAINS RELIABLE INFORMATION.

SUMMARY: (U) FRANCE WILL ATTEMPT TO INCREASE MILITARY COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA IN THE AREAS OF TRAINING, EXCHANGES AND ARMAMENTS SALES.

TEXT: 1. (U) FRANCE IS TRYING TO RECAPTURE THE PRIVILEGED POSITION THEY HELD WITH SOUTH AFRICA IN THE MILITARY AND ARMAMENTS COOPERATION DOMAIN PRIOR TO THE 1977 EMBARGO. MUCH OF

THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY IS EQUIPPED WITH MATERIAL OF FRENCH ORIGIN: MIRAGE AIRCRAFT, ALOUETTE HELICOPTERS, AND DAPHNE SUBMARINES. SOUTH AFRICAN INTEREST IN FRENCH WEAPON SYSTEMS STEMS FROM THE WAR IN ALGERIA.

2. (U) WHEN THE UN EMBARGO WAS LIFTED, FRANCO-SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY COOPERATION STARTED AGAIN IN 940100. IN 951201, 40 SOUTH AFRICAN PARACHUTE TROOPS PARTICIPATED IN FRENCH EXERCISES IN REUNION. THIS EXPERIENCE WAS REPEATED IN 960500. FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS, FRANCE HAS HOSTED A SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENT ABOARD, THE "JEANNE D'ARC". THE NUMBER OF FRENCH PORT STOPS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN HAS INCREASED. AT THE BEGINNING OF 1996, THE FRENCH ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF AND THE FRENCH CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS VISITED SOUTH AFRICA. AFTER HAVING SENT THEIR EQUIPMENT TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR MANY YEARS, THE FRENCH MILITARY NOW INTENDS TO "PROPOSE THEIR EXPERIENCE". THE FRENCH MILITARY ADAPTED SERVICE (SMA), WHICH EXISTS IN FRENCH OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS AND TERRITORIES, COULD APPLY TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN SERVICE CORPS, THE ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAINING AND REHABILITATION OF 30,000 SOLDIERS.

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3. (U) SOUTH AFRICAN ARMAMENTS INDUSTRIES WERE MAJOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE EUROSATORY GROUND ARMAMENTS SHOW HELD 960600 IN FRANCE. TWENTY-TWO COMPANIES DISPLAYED THEIR WARES. EUROPE ORDERED MORE THAN A BILLION FRENCH FRANCS WORTH OF SOUTH AFRICAN EQUIPMENT. FRANCE SIGNED A CONTRACT FOR THE "CHUBBY" DEMINING EQUIPMENT, CURRENTLY BEING TESTED BY THE U.S. ARMY.

4. (U) FRANCE STILL HOPES TO WIN A CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF FOUR CORVETTES TO THE S. AFRICAN NAVY. THERE IS STIFF COMPETITION AMONG THE BRITS, DANES, SPANISH AND THE FRENCH.

5. (U) FRANCE, "THE GENDARME OF AFRICA", IS SEEKING TO INCREASE COOPERATION WITH THE MOST POWERFUL MILITARY FORCE ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, DUE TO ITS GEOSTRATEGIC IMPORTANCE.

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COMMENTS: 1-(C) [REDACTED] MR. NELSON ((MANDELA)), PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA, HAS COMPLET ED A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND POPULAR VISIT TO PARIS, TO INCLUDE THE BASTILLE DAY PARADE ON 960714.

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

[REDACTED]

(b)(3): 10 USC 424

[REDACTED]