

Mr Greenham
VJ: 9/6.

AG.

W. Viljoen
Thank you

CLASSIFICATION : SECRET

REFERENCE : 9/74

TO : THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL : AFRICA
MR D W AURET (AADG) HS x2603

THROUGH : THE ACTING CHIEF-DIRECTOR : REST OF
AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST
MR C J B WESSELS (HDRA) HS x2500

: THE DIRECTOR : REST OF AFRICA AND MIDDLE
EAST
MR J DE GOEDE (DAFR) HS x2507

FROM : THE DEPUTY-DIRECTOR : MIDDLE EAST
MR P L U VILJOEN (AA81) HS x2516

COMPILED BY : A B GREENHAM (AA81) HS x2515

DATE : 8 JUNE 1993

STATUS : FOR YOUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SUBJECT : CONVERSATION WITH OFFICERS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE (DMI)
ON MILITARY CONTRACTS WITH ISRAEL

1. At DMI's request, two officials from the Department, messrs Viljoen and Greenham, went to DMI to discuss the future of existing military contracts with Israel. The subject of the discussion, which was only revealed on our arrival at DMI, revolved around a bilateral military cooperation meeting on 23 June 1993, where Gen Pierre Steyn will represent the SADF. DMI's question to us was essentially two-fold: In order to allay Israeli fears, they wanted to know what guarantees the General might give to his Israeli counterpart on keeping Israeli military secrets known to the SADF safe after transition. They also wanted our view on whether military attachés could be openly accredited.

2. It was confirmed that the secrecy of current contracts could not be guaranteed after a new government came to

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power in South Africa and the officers from DMI (Brig Clark and Col Neethling) concluded that it would be wise to inform appropriate leaders in the ANC of the nature of these projects and attempt to "get them on board" before they made this discovery of their own accord, possibly as members of the TEC. We discussed the refocusing of bilateral relations with Israel on civilian rather than military cooperation and DMI seems to accept that their special relationship with Israel is nearing its end.

3. On the question of accrediting military attachés openly, they were told that this Department would not raise an objection as such a step would serve to make the relationship more translucent.
4. The DMI officers were also informed of the official contact that has been established with the PLO. They were given a number of arguments which Gen Steyn might use to explain this position, i.a. that the Israeli Knesset had authorised contact on the part of private Israeli citizens with the PLO and that the Minister accordingly saw no reason why we could not make such contacts ourselves. They were also given a briefing on the growing importance of HAMAS in the Occupied Territories with a view to bringing home to them the fact that the PLO is the more moderate and reasonable alternative.
5. This is brought to your attention in case you are approached by General Steyn before the meeting.