



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

Hand For GS

October 31, 1979

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: ✓ S/AS - Mr. Allen Locke
 INR - Director William G. Bowdler
 OES - Mr. Leslie H. Brown

FROM: S/MS - Dick Combs *RC*

SUBJECT: Attached cable to Amb. Watson

Ambassador Watson has sent a personal message to Marshall Shulman asking whether our delay in going to the Soviets on the possible nuclear event in the South Atlantic marked a change in our policy of consulting with Soviets on such matters.

The Secretary has asked that our reply be along the lines of the attached draft.

Appreciate your clearance by COB today, October 31.
(Please call Dick Combs, x.28904.)

Done

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

S/MS:RECOMBS
10/31/79 X28904
S/MS:NDSHULMAN

P:RBAKER
S/AS:ALOCKE
OES:LHBROWN

EUR:RLBARRY
INR:WGBOWDLER

IMMEDIATE MOSCOW

NODIS

E.O. 11652: RDS-3 10/31/89 {SHULMAN, MARSHALL D.}

TAGS: UR, US, PARM

SUBJECT: SOUTH ATLANTIC INCIDENT

REF: MOSCOW 24880

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SHULMAN

NDS
REC *RSL*
RB *by RSL*
RLB *by RSL*
AL
WGB
LHB

THE SECRETARY WANTS YOU TO KNOW THAT OUR APPROACH IN THIS CASE DOES NOT REPRESENT A DEPARTURE FROM OUR POLICY OF SHARING INFORMATION WITH THE SOVIETS ON INCIDENTS OF THIS NATURE. HOWEVER, IN THIS INSTANCE, WE DELAYED GOING TO THE SOVIETS FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, OUR INITIAL INFORMATION WAS HIGHLY INCONCLUSIVE. SECOND, OUR ALLIES WERE CONCERNED THAT PRECIPITATE ACTION MIGHT COMPLICATE OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES. {FYI: IN PARTICULAR, THE BRITISH WERE CONCERNED THAT THE U.K.-RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE AFFECTED.} THEREFORE, WE DECIDED TO HOLD OFF APPROACHING THE SOVIETS PENDING FURTHER EFFORTS TO CLARIFY DATA. 44

CONFIDENTIAL