



International Atomic Energy Agency

# INFORMATION CIRCULAR

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## COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM SOUTH AFRICA

1. On 31 January 1984 the Director General received a letter of the same date from the Resident Representative of South Africa to the Agency containing a press release with a statement by Dr. J.W.L. de Villiers, Executive Chairman of the Atomic Energy Corporation of South Africa Limited, issued on 31 January 1984.
2. In accordance with a request - received on 10 February 1984 from the Resident Representative of South Africa - that the statement be circulated as an official document of the Agency, the text of the press release is reproduced below for the information of all Members.

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"Local development in the field of nuclear technology, such as the establishment of uranium enrichment and attendant facilities in the Republic of South Africa, has caused concern in the international nuclear community and has led to allegations that South Africa may become a supplier of nuclear technology materials and equipment outside the Non-Proliferation Treaty regime.

"During discussions on nuclear policy and safeguards with the United States of America, South Africa has become aware of United States concern about its intentions, and the South African Government has given the assurance to the United States Government that South Africa will conduct and administer its nuclear affairs in a manner which is in line with the spirit, principles and goals of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Nuclear Suppliers Group Guidelines (INFCIRC/254). In practice this means that South Africa will transfer material, equipment and technology identified in the trigger list of INFCIRC/254 only in accordance with the provisions in that document. This would specifically include:

- “I. South Africa will not sell uranium to non-nuclear weapons countries, without International Atomic Energy Agency or Euratom safeguards;
- “II. South Africa will not make available sensitive technology to any other country, without Agency or Euratom safeguards;
- “III.” South Africa will not sell enriched uranium, or nuclear equipment, without Agency or Euratom safeguards

"In the event of sales under I, II or III above, the receiving country will have to guarantee that the technology, material and equipment will not be used for nuclear explosives, but only for peaceful purposes.

"Although South Africa is not a signatory to Non-Proliferation Treaty, nor has it agreed to fullscope safeguards on all its nuclear facilities, South Africa is prepared to resume discussions with the International Atomic Energy Agency Secretariat on safeguards in respect of its semi-commercial enrichment plant but not its pilot enrichment plant. South Africa cannot, of course, agree to IAEA safeguards before greater clarity has been obtained on what would be expected of South Africa.

"While resuming discussions with the IAEA Secretariat, South Africa is prepared to resume, at any time, discussions with the United States, and to send a delegation to the United States or to receive a delegation in South Africa for this purpose."