

November 28, 1967

Letter from J.L. Stevenson to A.C. Stuart, 'East German Statements on Bonn-Pretoria Alliance'

Citation:

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Summary:

J. L. Stevenson concludes that recent East German statements about West German/South African military cooperation, including in nuclear energy, are baseless and that the recent cooperation appears benign.

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Original Language:

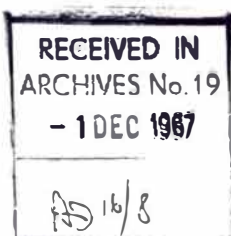
English

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BRITISH EMBASSY,
BONN.

23 November, 1967 1/2

*Dear Mr. [unclear],*East German Statements on Bonn-Pretoria Alliance

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 16 November to Cromartie in Geneva. I have discussed this with others in the Embassy including our Counsellor (Scientific) and what follows represents our joint view.

2. We do not really feel that there are properly speaking any "hard allegations" in the East German pamphlet. There are a few facts about German/South African collaboration in nuclear energy and space, a lot of surmise, and some innuendos.
3. Paragraph 4 of your letter just about sums up the situation as we see it here. To this one might add that it would be only sensible for the Germans to try to get supplies of enriched as well as natural uranium from sources other than the U.S.A. (We ourselves are negotiating to supply from Capenhurst, a third European separation plant is being considered and it is believed the French are also interested in supplying from Pierrelatte). Most profit in the nuclear field is likely to come from fuel - all countries including Germany, must therefore interest themselves in nuclear fuel technology.
4. We have no means of knowing for sure if there is anything sinister in Germany's activities. We can only say that from the facts her activities seem to be logical commercial ones. But it is perhaps unfortunate that Germany's intransigence over controls in the N.P.T. context lays her wide open to accusations of this sort.
5. I am copying this letter to Cromartie and to Berthoud in Pretoria.

Yours ever,
J.L.

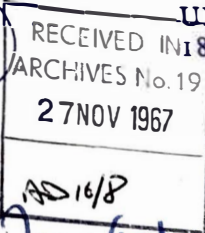
LAST PAPER

(J.L. Stevenson)

A.C. Stuart, Esq.,
Atomic Energy and Disarmament
Department,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

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Mr. Stafford W.D.
Mr. Ling SRD
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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION TO THE
NATION DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

37-39 rue de Vermont, 1202 GENEVA

Telephone: 34.38.00, 33.23.85

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23 November 1967

Many thanks for your letter of 16 November and for the trouble you have taken to obtain a copy of the G.D.R. Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee Memorandum. We have read this with interest and return it herewith.

2. You may have noticed, à propos of the remark at the top of page 40 the Memorandum, that the Canadian Government announced a few days ago the conclusion of an agreement for the sale of a quantity of uranium under I.A.E.A. safeguards.

Yours ever
Jan.

(R.I.T. Cromartie)

A.C. Stuart, Esq.,
Atomic Energy and Disarmament Department,
Foreign Office,
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FOREIGN OFFICE,

16 November 1967

East German statements on Bonn-Pretoria alliance

Will you please refer to your letter of 11 October to Robin Andrew. I am sorry we have been so long in replying. 7/6

2. I enclose a copy of the Democratic German Report of 14 July and also of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee Memorandum from which the DGR was drawn. The latter is, apparently, the only copy in Whitehall and its owner has asked for it back when you have finished with it.

3. After mulling over the question, the Scientific Department concerned have said that they see nothing sinister in the fact of collaboration between West Germany and South Africa, and have no information which would confirm any of the suspicions expressed by the GDR.

4. The West German civil nuclear industry is a growing concern. The main firms, AEG, and Siemens, are building American-designed civil nuclear reactors and are competing fiercely in the nuclear export market. The Germans have of course no indigenous supplies of uranium ore. It is therefore obviously a matter of sound commercial policy to obtain guaranteed supplies of uranium ore both for internal use and to ensure fuel supplies for exported reactors. The biggest suppliers of uranium to the Western countries are the US, Canada, and South Africa. It is only politic for the Germans to try to get supplies from all possible sources. The UK does the same.

5. Nevertheless despite this generally reassuring conclusion I think there are enough hard allegations in the DGR pamphlet, (perhaps in the form of lies, damn lies, and statistics), to make it worth while investigating and commenting on them in rather more detail. The best places to do this would probably be Bonn and Pretoria. I am therefore copying this letter, with copies of the "Democratic German Report" but not the Afro-Asian Memorandum, to Ian Stevenson in Bonn and Martin Berthoud in Pretoria for any comments that may occur to them.

(A.C.Stuart)

1. I. T. Cromartie Esq.,
UK Delegation to ENDC,
GENEVA

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D & D 20/11.

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