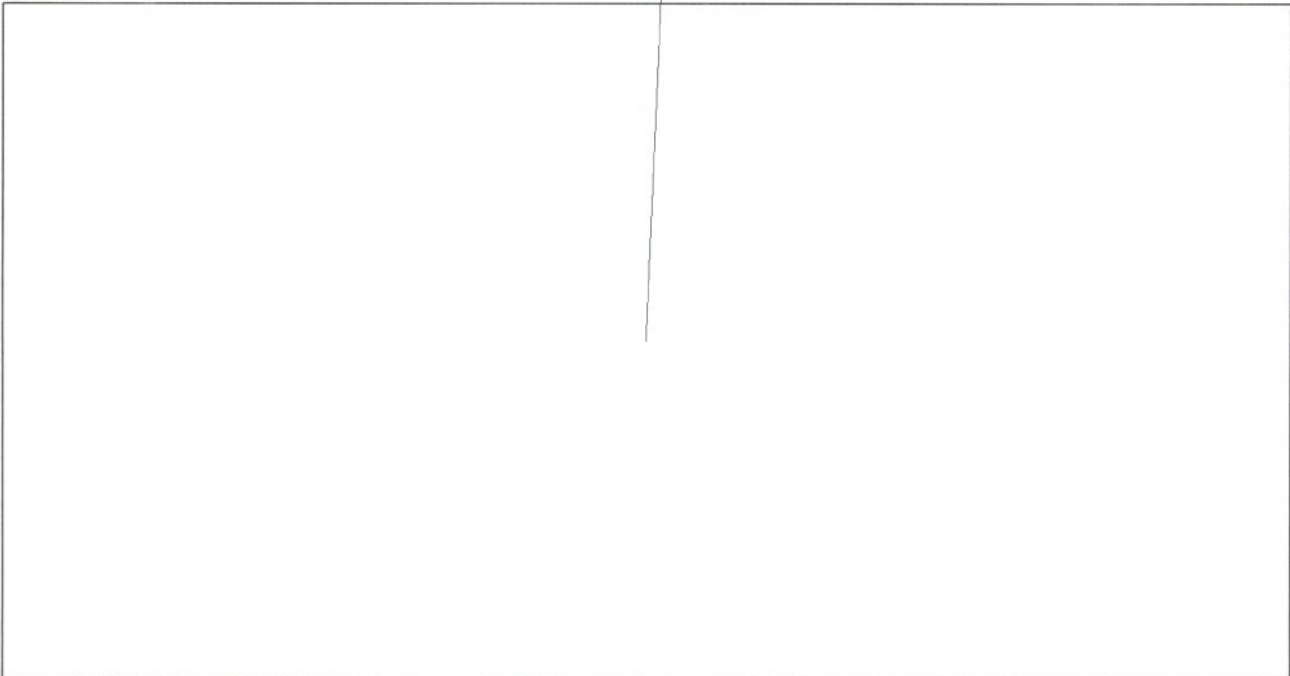


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/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/
BODY -
COUNTRY: (U) SOUTH AFRICA (SF).

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SUBJECT: [Redacted] HEATED DEBATE ERUPTS AS PRESIDENT ((MBEKI)) SHUTS OUT THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (HEATH COMMISSION) FROM THE ARMS DEAL PROBE (U) WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 20010122.

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SOURCE: A. (U) SUNDAY NEWSPAPER, "STAR", JOHANNESBURG, 21 JANUARY 2001 (U), ENGLISH, A POLITICALLY MODERATE PAPER WITH A REPUTATION FOR FAIRNESS.

B. (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "BEELD", JOHANNESBURG, 22 JANUARY 2001 (U), AFRIKAANS, THE PAPER IS VIEWED AS POLITICALLY MODERATE AND HAS REPORTED RELIABLY IN THE PAST.

C. (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "THE CITIZEN", JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, 22 JANUARY 2001 (U), ENGLISH, THE PAPER IS VIEWED AS POLITICALLY MODERATE AND HAS REPORTED RELIABLY IN THE PAST.

D. (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "THE CITIZEN", JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, 23 JANUARY 2001 (U), ENGLISH, THE PAPER IS VIEWED AS POLITICALLY MODERATE AND HAS REPORTED RELIABLY IN THE PAST.

E. (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "STAR", JOHANNESBURG, 23 JANUARY 2001 (U), ENGLISH, A POLITICALLY MODERATE PAPER WITH A REPUTATION FOR FAIRNESS.

SUMMARY: ~~(C)~~ PRESIDENT ((MBEKI)) REFUSED TO INVOLVE THE INDEPENDENT SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT, HEADED BY JUDGE WILLEM ((HEATH)), IN A PROBE OF CORRUPTION IN THE 43 BILLION RAND ARMS DEAL. ANC PARLIAMENT MEMBERS BREAK WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO REQUEST HEATH'S INVOLVEMENT.

TEXT: 1. ~~(C)~~ SOURCE A REPORTED THAT DURING A TELEVISED ANNOUNCEMENT ON FRIDAY 19 JANUARY 2001, SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT THABO ((MBEKI)) STATED THAT THE INDEPENDENT SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT, HEADED BY JUDGE WILLEM ((HEATH)), WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN A PROBE OF POSSIBLE CORRUPTION IN THE 43 BILLION RAND ARMS DEAL. (NOTE: ONE US DOLLAR EQUALS 7.9 SA RAND). IT FURTHER REPORTED THAT IN AN UNUSUAL MOVE JUDGE HEATH HAD CALLED NELSON ((MANDELA)) TO REQUEST A "TESTIMONIAL" REGARDING THE JUDGE'S ABILITIES TO "ALL THAT WOULD CALL". THIS SO INCENSED MBEKI THAT HE LAUNCHED A SCATHING PERSONAL ATTACK ON JUDGE HEATH DURING THE FRIDAY BROADCAST, WAVING AN ORGANIZATIONAL CHART THAT ALLEGEDLY IMPLICATED MBEKI AND MANDELA AS BEING A PART OF THE CORRUPTION. EVIDENTLY, MANDELA CALLED HEATH ON SATURDAY TO REBUKE THE LATTER'S IMPLICATION THAT MBEKI OR MANDELA WERE INVOLVED IN CORRUPTION OVER THE ARMS DEAL.

2. (U) IN SOURCE B, PATRICIA ((DE LILLE)), PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS PARTY (PAC) PARLIAMENTARIAN, IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT MBEKI'S REFUSAL SPARKS A "CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS" AND

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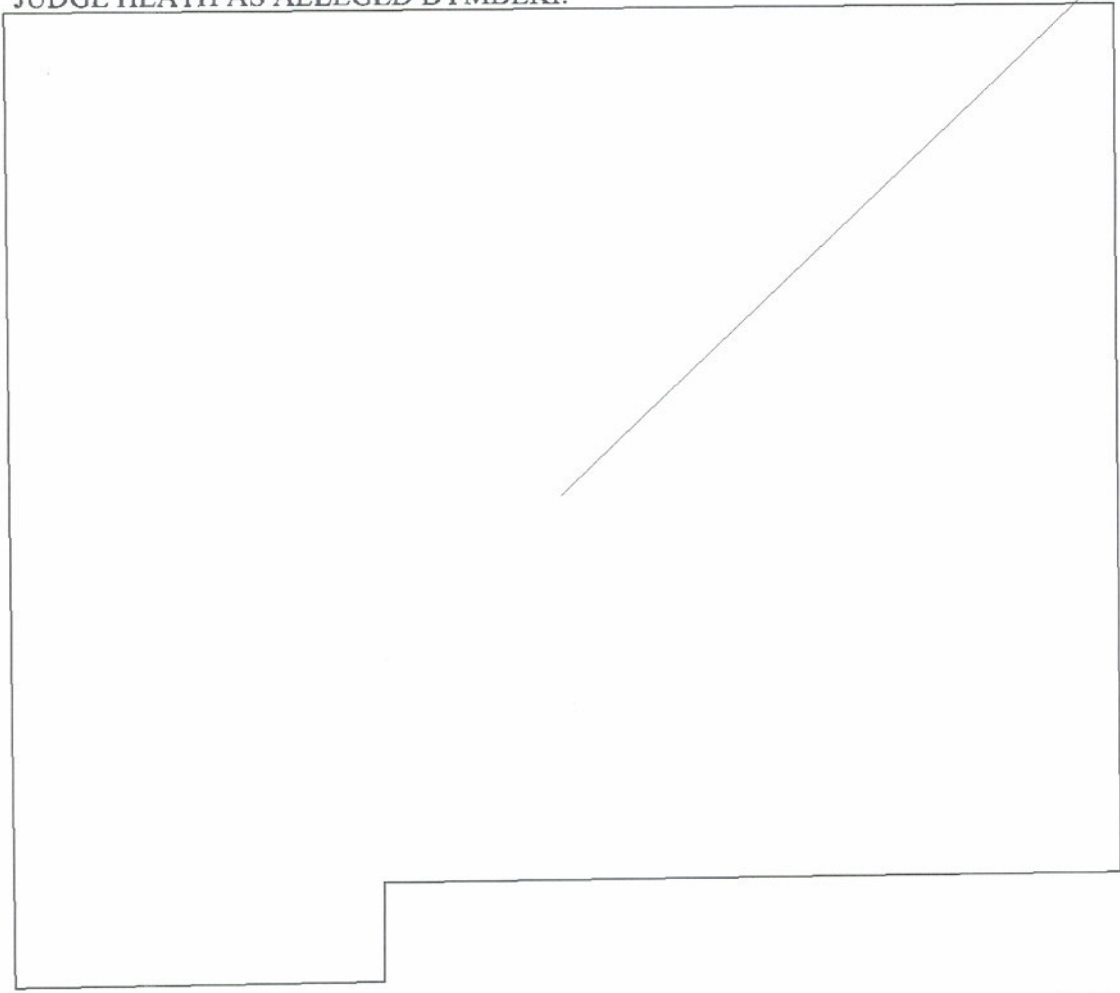
SHOWS THE CONTEMPT FOR PARLIAMENT THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HOLDS. SHEVOWED THAT THE PAC WOULD TAKE THE MATTER OF THE HEATH COMMISSION'S INCLUSION INTO THE ARMS PROBE TO THE SUPREME COURT.

3. (U) IN SOURCE C, OPPOSITION LEADER TONY ((LEON)), OF THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE, IS REPORTED URGING PRESIDENT MBEKI TO PROVIDE MORETRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT. HE SAID, "INSTEAD OF DEALING WITH THE ARMS DEAL IN A TRANSPARENT AND OPEN MANNER, ...THERE'S (THE APPEARANCE OF) SKULLDUGGERY OF THE HIGHEST ORDER THAT NEEDS TO BE CONCEALED. WE HAVE ... THREE OF THE WORST ATTRIBUTES OF THIS GOVERNMENT - ARROGANCE, CLUMSINESS AND MISSED OPPORTUNITY."

4. (U) IN SOURCE D, IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE PARLIAMENT STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (SCOPA), GAVE FULL BACKING TO THE PROBE. IN A BREAK FROM MBEKI, THIS INCLUDED AFRICA NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC) MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (ALTHOUGH THEY LATER BACKED OFF UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE PARTY).

5. (U) INSOURCE E, IT WAS REVEALED THAT THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART (PARA 1) WAS FROM A JOURNALIST'S NOTES THAT WERE "FOUND" BY INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATORS AND NOT DRAWN UP BY JUDGE HEATH AS ALLEGED BYMBEKI.

(b)(1);(b)(3):10 USC 424;
(b)(3):50 USC 3024
(i);Sec. 1.4(c)



(b)(3):10 USC 424

