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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Union of South Africa

SUBJECT Attitude Towards the United Nations
25X1A

PLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.) Aug 52 - Aug 53

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ORH NO.	
DAS NO.	
OCT NO.	

DATE DISTR. 17 Dec 53

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

SOURCE

1. The United Nations is not popular with anyone in the Union of South Africa although the United Party endorses cooperation with the UN as a part of its platform. The general opposition towards the United Nations has its roots in the UN interference in the internal affairs of the Union, which many people believe has intensified the non-European problems. However, I do not take very seriously the recent warning by Prime Minister Malan that the Union of South Africa will walk out of the United Nations if India and other Asia-Africa nations persist in bringing up motions to condemn the Nationalist Party's apartheid program. I do not think it is very likely and I do not think that it would aid Malan or the Nationalist Party in the Union.
2. I cannot possibly think of a Nationalist Party member who would object to Malan's earthy language that he used in denouncing the United Nations. His reference to the United Nations as a failure and a cancer eating at the peace and tranquillity of the world is very representative of the earthy type of language used in political speaking in the Union and this picturesque figure of speech expresses the general sentiment of not only Malan's political leaders but the rank and file of the Nationalist Party. It is my guess that it would be overoptimistic to hope for an objection to the strength of Malan's speech from any Nationalist. In actual practice, the Nationalist Party has been able to capitalize on the attitudes expressed in the United Nations.

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3. On the other hand, the United Nations has given the United Party considerable difficulty because it cannot capitalize on its official support of the United Nations attitude because of the latter's general unpopularity. The United Party feels that the people in the Union do not have an understanding of the United Nations or the good things that it has done; but on the other hand, it does not basically disagree that the UN discussions have made things more difficult for the Union by encouraging non-Europeans to take a more intransigent attitude towards the Europeans than they think should be taken.

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