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Classified by: UNSPECIFIED

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Declassify on: April 12, 2042

(S/[]/NF) SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE MINISTER'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF
ISRAELI INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW SOUTH AFRICAN FIGHTER
AIRCRAFT; UNSUCCESSFUL SOUTH AFRICAN ATTEMPT TO PURCHASE MIRAGE
AIRCRAFT FROM AUSTRALIA

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Central Intelligence Agency

23 January 1989

Doc Number: []

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SOURCE A []

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CONTEXT A []

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(S/[]/NF) 1. []

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[] SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE MAGNUS ((MALAN))

ACKNOWLEDGED EFFORTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY BY ARMSCOR SUBSIDIARY ATLAS AIRCRAFT
CORPORATION TO DEVELOP A NEW FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. MALAN SAID THE AIRCRAFT WAS BASED ON
THE ISRAELI "LAVI" AND THAT A NUMBER OF ISRAELI TECHNICIANS FORMERLY INVOLVED WITH THE
LAVI PROJECT HAVE BEEN RECRUITED AND ARE NOW IN SOUTH AFRICA WORKING FOR ATLAS
AIRCRAFT. MALAN SAID IT WILL BE FIVE TO SIX YEARS BEFORE THE AIRCRAFT IS DEPLOYED.

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN LATE 1988 ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO PURCHASE AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF MIRAGE AIRCRAFT
FROM AUSTRALIA. THE SOUTH AFRICANS ABORTED THEIR ATTEMPT TO PURCHASE THE AIRCRAFT
WHEN THEY REALIZED THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT AGREE TO THE PURCHASE
BECAUSE OF ITS ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. [] COMMENT: []

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Page 1 of 2

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[] THE AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT ALSO SUPPORTS THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.
THERE IS NO EVIDENCE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME TO INDICATE THAT AUSTRALIA HAS EVER
CONTRAVENED THE AGREEMENT.)

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Page 2 of 2 (b)(3)