

24

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~NATO SECRET~~

Erasmus

DECLASSIFIED
Authority <u>NLE 2013-194 #8</u>
By <u>MMK</u> NLDDE Date <u>12/21/16</u>

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

September 11, 1957

The Minister of Defense of South Africa, accompanied by Commandant-General H. B. Klopper, (Chief of General Staff,) and Mr. J. P. de Villiers, (Secretary for Defense,) called on General Norstad today and stayed for lunch. During the course of conversation, Mr. Erasmus indicated his serious concern with the recent developments in the Middle East and sought assurances regarding NATO's active interest in this area. It became clear that his main concern was the Soviet threat in the form of subversion and infiltration rather than overt military action. Though the South African Ambassador to France, who also accompanied Mr. Erasmus on his visit, went so far as to directly suggest the possibility of South African membership in NATO, Mr. Erasmus talked more in terms of a South African Regional Defense Organization which would have indirect assurances of support from NATO in the event of an emergency by virtue of several of its members being members of NATO at the same time. General Norstad indicated that of course this matter was outside his area of responsibility, but that such a Regional Defense Organization might contribute elements of political strength to the South African area. However, he also mentioned that the serious racial and colonial problems in the area might make it difficult to obtain the agreement of the other interested powers. Mr. Erasmus envisaged his South African Regional Defense Organization as having a northern boundary roughly along the line of the Equator. He thought that a similar Regional Defense Organization for North Africa should eventually be formed and he looked forward to the day when these two African Defense Organizations could be linked.

Mr. Erasmus was interested also in the development of a link between NATO and the Baghdad Pact and even raised the possibility of an overall Defense Organization for the Western World which would provide a common umbrella for NATO, Baghdad Pact, SEATO, South African Defense Organization, etc.

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Downgraded To <u>NATO RESTRICTED</u>
By Authority Of <u>SECCOS, SHAPE</u>
By <u>GW Pedlow</u> NLE Date <u>11/14/61</u>

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NATO SECRET

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

H.B.

(Chief of General Staff)
J.P.

September 11, 1957

(Secretary for Defense.)

The Minister of Defense of South Africa, accompanied by ~~Commandant~~ General Klopper and Mr de Villiers, called on General Norstad today and stayed for lunch. During the course of conversation, Mr. Erasmus indicated his serious concern with the recent developments in the Middle East and sought assurances regarding NATO's active interest in this area. It became clear that his main concern was the Soviet threat in the form of subversion and infiltration rather than overt military action. Though the South African Ambassador to France, who also accompanied Mr. Erasmus on his visit, went so far as to directly suggest the possibility of South African membership in NATO, Mr. Erasmus talked more in terms of a South African Regional Defense Organization which would have indirect assurances of support from NATO in the event of an emergency by virtue of several of its members being members of NATO at the same time. General Norstad indicated that of course this matter was outside ~~his~~ ^{his} area of responsibility, but that such a Regional Defense Organization might contribute elements of political strength to the South African area. However, he also mentioned that the serious racial and colonial problems in the area might make it difficult to obtain the agreement of the other interested powers. Mr. Erasmus envisaged his South African Regional Defense Organization as having a northern boundary roughly along the line of the Equator. He thought that a similar Regional Defense Organization for North Africa should eventually be formed and he looked forward to the day when these two African Defense Organizations could be linked.

Mr. Erasmus was interested also in the development of a link between NATO and the Baghdad Pact and even raised the possibility of an overall Defense Organization for the Western World which would provide a common umbrella for NATO, Baghdad Pact, SEATO, South African Defense Organization, etc.

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DRAFT

Downgraded To	NATO RESTRICTED
By Authority Of	SECCOS, SHAPE
By	GePalloo NLE Date: 11/19/91

MEMO OF CONVERSATION

September 11, 1957

The Minister of Defense of South Africa, accompanied by General Klepper and M. de Villiers, called on ~~me~~ ^{General Norstad} today and stayed for lunch. During the course of conversation, Mr. Erasmus indicated his serious concern with the recent developments in the Middle East and sought assurances regarding NATO's active interest in this area. It became clear that his main concern ^{was} over the Soviet threat ~~was~~ in the form of subversion ^{and} infiltration rather than overt military action. Though the South African Ambassador to France, who also accompanied Mr. Erasmus on his visit, went so far as to directly suggest the possibility of South Africa membership in NATO, Mr. Erasmus talked more in terms of a South African Regional Defense Organization which would have ⁱⁿ direct assurances of support from NATO in the event of an emergency by virtue

of several of its members being members of NATO at the same time. ^{responsibility} ~~I indicated that of course this matter was outside my area of~~ ^{but that} ~~I agreed with Mr. Erasmus' proposal that such a Regional Defense Organization would contribute~~ ^{elements of} ~~political~~ ^{he} strength to the South African area. However, ~~I~~ ^{he} also mentioned that the serious racial and colonial problems in the area might make it difficult to obtain the agreement of the other interested powers. Mr. Erasmus envisaged his South African Regional Defense Organization as having a northern boundary roughly along the line of the Equator. He thought that a similar Regional Defense Organization for North Africa should eventually be formed and he looked forward to the day when these two African Defense Organizations could be linked ~~under a common umbrella.~~

Gen. Norstad

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Mr. Erasmus was ~~particularly~~ ^{also} interested in the ^{development} status of a link between NATO and the Baghdad Pact and even raised the possibility of an overall Defense Organization for the Western World which would provide a common umbrella for NATO, Baghdad Pact, SEATO, South African Defense Organization, etc.

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