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CYPHER TELEGRAM.

FROM: South African Delegation, New York.
TO: Secretary for External Affairs, Pretoria.

12th November, 1946.

No. 18 XX TOP SECRET XX

The following dated November 12th for Mr. Hofmeyr from the Prime Minister.

You will have seen in the Press Novikov's fierce onslaught on us yesterday in the Trusteeship Committee on South West Africa. Fortunately it was almost as strongly directed against the United States of America and the United Kingdom, and we therefore are not alone. We have all replied vigorously in the Press. I have still to reply in the debate to India and Russia, which will close on Friday or Saturday.

The following inside information may be useful to you and other colleagues. Our going here is very hard and feeling against South African policy on both the Indian and South West African question is wide and strong. Both colour policies are most unpopular in the United States of America and in a World Assembly like U.N.O., and the atmosphere is chilly all round. The only bright spot is the discreet support that the United Kingdom is giving us, especially on South West Africa. As the situation is now developing, the best course for us will be to get the Indian complaint referred to the International Court of Justice. Both the United States of America and the United Kingdom favour this course and I have decided to adopt this, especially to prevent a condemnatory resolution and to gain time. There is of course no definite certainty whether the Court will declare the Indian question an essentially domestic issue, especially in view of the fact that the Indian Government were called in previously by the PACT Government. But on balance the Court may be our safer course.

In regard to South West Africa _____ (?) permission to annex and we may even be faced with a resolution against annexation.

This would be sad, but in my view not fatal. We have laid the case of the inhabitants before U.N.O. and, in face of their wishes for annexation, we cannot be expected to submit to a trusteeship agreement. There will therefore not be an agreement, and we proceed to administer the territory as an integral part of the Union. We are also prepared to forward information to U.N.O., such as colonial Powers may render under paragraph 73(E). Our position is therefore good enough so long as we can keep out of the jurisdiction of the Trusteeship Council. Even without annexation we can proceed to make whatever constitutional arrangements we please in regard to the territory. This view is also held by the United Kingdom. I am troubled about the slow pace of the Conference. It looks like going on until mid-December. As I wish by

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should I send this to someone...

W.K.
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