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MESSAGE FORM

1.	202E054.J2
2.	291315B
3.	29 May 2012
4.	01 OF 06 PAGES [INCL. ANNEXURE]
5.	ROUTINE

6.	CM: EF23
7.	SECRET
8.	B14: CONTACT REPORT
9.	LIAISON REPORT
10.	EL/LS/VI

11.	HOS: EF23/1
12.	R22A
13.	LIAISON REQUEST LS 826: NORTH AFRICA BRIEFING

1. The above subject refers; attached please find LS 826 Contact Report.
2. With reference to paragraph 2.4 (previous request) it would be appreciated if Chief Directorate Y could be requested to provide briefing notes and a specific tasking in respect of North Africa that the SSA would want HoS to pursue with LS 826.
3. Thank you for your attention.

APPROVED BY HOS: EF23

END OF MESSAGE

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State Security

State Security Agency
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DOMESTIC LIAISON	
2012-05-31	
TIME: 09:14	SIGN:
S.A.S.S.	

FOREIGN BRANCH LIAISON CONTACT REPORT

To : Divisional Head EF23
Reference : SSA/R22A/EL/LS/MI (LS 826)
Date : 28 May 2012

Name of Liaison Service : MOIS
Country : Iran
Name of SSA:
Foreign Branch member(s) :

Name of LS member(s) : Head of Liaison
 Liaison Officer
 Interpreter – Name unknown

Date of meeting : 28 May 2012
Place of meeting : MOIS Guesthouse in Pasdaran, Gulistan 5 no 207
Type of meeting : Personal
Documents exchanged (yes/no) : No
Other people/officials involved : None
Initiator of contact : Station EF23/1

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The primary purpose for requesting the meeting was to obtain feedback from LS 826 regarding the SSA's official invitation dated 19 April 2012 (reached Station on 23 April) for a LS 826 delegation to visit South Africa. The invitation was delivered to LS 826's guesthouse on 25 April 2012.

SECRET

SECRET

- 1.2 The meeting was requested on Saturday 26 and confirmed by LS 826 on Sunday 27 for 28 June at 10:00. HoS was requested that the Deputy HoS [REDACTED] should also attend; this was the first request of this nature.
- 1.3 Introduction to [REDACTED] Head of liaison was followed by the normal niceties relating to how members are settling in Iran etc. He apologised that he was only able to meet members now for the first time. Furthermore reiterated that his service regards the SSA as friendly service, however the philosophy and justification of the relationship should be of mutual interest and cooperation should be beneficial to both services.
- 1.4 [REDACTED] in no uncertain terms pressed ahead with the actual point he was trying to make i.e. lack of visible cooperation, in spite of the fact that HoS requested the meeting to discuss the invitation to South Africa. In a rather diplomatic manner he expressed his services dissatisfaction with cooperation between the two services and stated that in their evaluation nothing has improved compared to the past. Subsequently they had difficulty in explaining the benefit of the relation to their Ministry who insist on regular progress reports. He spoke for an extended period, elaborating that this relationship should become more meaningful, despite not tabling practical or concrete ways of doing so. He simply stated that we should find some creative initiatives to elevate the relationship.
- 1.4.1 He affirmed that compared to other declared services with whom they have interaction the level of cooperation with the SSA is regarded as the least meaningful at present, that this remains a question of concern at the Ministry in spite of the fact that the SSA had two persons in Iran. He appealed that a real effort be made to improve cooperation as he is expected to regularly update the Ministry of progress.
- 1.5 HoS was given opportunity to respond and stated that it was a pity that since the first meeting beginning October 2011, it is only now that members were introduced to the Head of Liaison in spite of the fact that promises were made to facilitate such meetings speedily. Should these discussions have taken place earlier we could have agreed on a variety of more dynamic mechanisms, something which LS 826 liaison officers are reluctant to address. Since the first meeting LS 826 liaison officers have also been changed. HoS reminded [REDACTED] that in spite of the lack of so-called high level cooperation it was only the SSA that provided a liaison document up until now.

SECRET

SECRET

1.5.1 HoS emphasised the fact that an undertaking made by HoS, since LS 826 basically retracted during the first meeting in October stating that the "ball was now in our court", culminated in a invitation to South Africa during which the Minister was prepared to meet their most senior representative and also allowing an opportunity for expert discussions.

1.5.2 HoS reiterated that the purpose for requesting the meeting was to gain feedback and a decision from LS 826 regarding the invitation extended to visit South Africa during the period June, July or August 2012. It however became obvious that this was not on [REDACTED] agenda and he continued along the path of the perceived lack of cooperation.

1.6 He inter alia reiterated the following:

- Once again highlighting LS 826's concern and reservations re the lack of due process that was followed culminating in the placement of two declared members in Iran. According to him this matter should have been clarified and agreed beforehand;
- The current status quo is problematic to justify to the Ministry. He did however state that we should now accept this status quo try and put the matter behind us;
- LS 826 should have been informed beforehand of the fact that HoS had Regional Responsibilities and would be travelling. He stated that perhaps they could have been of some assistance in this respect!
- Stated that they had difficulties reaching HoS on two occasions, once when HoS travelled to Dubai and during the recent [REDACTED]
- They were at present not able to convey a positive assessment of cooperation between the respective services making it difficult to justify relations;
- Stated that they will allow for a six month evaluation period before re-evaluating the continuation of the liaison relationship. Did not venture into what the consequences would be.

1.6.1 Since the first meeting in October 2011 HoS explained (as instructed by HQ) in a very open fashion that we were two individuals at the Station and that it was part of the SSA deployment strategy. HoS provided short resumes of members, photographs and contact numbers as requested also informing them of the fact that HoS had regional responsibilities and would travel. HoS was at some stage thanked for being so open and transparent in this regard. During the visit to Dubai HoS telephonically spoke with LS 826 and requested that they postpone the North Africa briefing with two days (this was

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the only initiative from their side thus far), this was agreed but never materialised. Two days before departing for the [REDACTED] HoS telephoned the liaison officer to arrange a meeting as to inform them of HoS's planned absence and to obtain feedback re the official invitation to visit South Africa. The liaison officer, [REDACTED] did not respond.

1.7 On the most pressing question i.e. the invitation to South Africa LS 826 could still not provide an answer even though the document had been in their possession for a month. [REDACTED] reverted by stating what they requested and would want to have interaction between the respective Ministers. This to him was seen as the first step which could be followed by expert exchange meetings thereafter. This in spite of the fact that it was previously agreed that the SSA would invite a high level delegation supplemented by experts to kick-start visible cooperation. From his comments it was obvious that [REDACTED] was now shifting the goal posts pushing for a Minister to Minister meeting. HoS insisted on feedback as soon as possible which [REDACTED] promised to provide but was not able to categorically state when.

1.8 The meeting adjourned hastily with no concrete decisions or proposals besides to increase interaction or as stated by [REDACTED] even if HoS meets their liaison officer to have a cup of tea (compliance). LS 826 undertook to convene a meeting soon to provide a briefing on North Africa and requested that HoS prepare for interactive participation.

2. COMMENT

2.1 From the outset it was clear that this meeting was not intended to focus on the SSA invitation extended to LS 826 (enhancing cooperation), but rather to once again rehash the rational and lack of coordination between the services on a higher level leading to the placement of two members without their prior approval. It is furthermore blatantly obvious, something which members and most diplomats have become accustomed to dealing with Iranians; that blame is always one sided, they the Iranians are never in the wrong. As far as HoS is concerned this is cleverly being used to simply to leverage and push their agenda for a inter Ministerial meeting in South Africa, something that has been on their agenda for a long time.

2.2 In light of the above HoS is seriously concerned about the overt intentions of LS 826. As

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in the discreet visit of the South African Minister of Energy earlier this year which was unnecessarily bloated all over the media, seemingly the only importance for LS 826 is to illustrate to the world that they are able to engage countries at the highest level, in this case something they would once again feel comfortable sharing with the media. The feeling one gets is that they are simply doing things to comply, the rest is actually irrelevant.

- 2.3 Unfortunately the fact remains that liaison cooperation and active interaction between the respective services is not what it should be, even historically and for a variety of reasons. One would over the medium term really have to consider the continued justification thereof and strategy to be followed. Until high level Ministerial interaction has taken place it is evident that this relationship in all honesty is doomed. This however is no guarantee that it would culminate in a dynamic liaison relationship.
- 2.4 For the interim HoS suggests first and foremost that a commitment from LS 826 be gained regarding the visit to South Africa. Once this has been received one would have a better idea on the way forward. In the mean time it would be appreciated if the Station could be provided with liaison documents, specific and detailed information requests in order to engage LS 826 (seeing they are complaining) and the North Africa briefing notes aimed at illustrating our seriousness. HoS is almost convinced that LS 826 would not be in a position to reciprocate over the short term.
3. Thank you for your attention.

END OF REPORT

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