

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANTANA 01259 031542Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 NEA-10 /131 W  
-----011147 031553Z /40

P R 031548Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 704  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY HONG KONG  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
USINT HAVANA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1259

DEPARTMENT PASS USINT HAVANA; AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS, AMEMBASSY  
MAPUTO

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, XA, MA, VM, UR  
SUBJ: MADAGASCAR PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MOSCOW  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANTANA 01259 031542Z

REF: A) MOSCOW 15363; B) ANT 1216; C) 77 ANT 2232

1. SUMMARY: HAVING BEEN CONDITIONED FOR OVER A YEAR TO PRESIDENT  
RATSIRAKA'S RHETORIC I DID NOT FIND HIS MOSCOW SPEECH (REF A)  
PARTICULARLY HACKNEYED OR HIS SUPPORT OF SOVIET POSITIONS AND  
ACTIONS UNUSUALLY BLATANT.I AM BASING MY REMARKS ON FRENCH

LANGUAGE TASS VERSION PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL PRESS  
BULLETIN WHICH MAY DIFFER SOMEWHAT FROM RUSSIAN VERSION.  
END SUMMARY.

2. LAVISH PRAISE HEAPED ON USSR AND BRESHNEV BY RATSIRAKA  
CONCENTRATED MOSTLY ON INTERNAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SOVIET REGIME  
AND SECONDARILY ON ITS WORLDWIDE ROLE IN QUEST FOR PEACE AND DISARM-  
AMENT. EXCEPT FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AND "EXPRESSED SATISFACTION"  
AT SOVIET/CUBAN ROLE IN ANGOLA, THERE IS NO SPECIFIC APPROVAL OF  
SOVIET ACTIONS IN AFRICA OR ANY INVITATION FOR CONTINUED SOVIET  
INVOLVEMENT. THERE IS NOTABLY NO ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SOVIET OR CUBAN  
ROLE IN ETHIOPIA AND NO REQUEST OR SUPPORT FOR SUCH INVOLVEMENT  
IN THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. CLOSEST HE COMES TO THIS IS  
STATEMENT THAT MALAGASY FRIENDSHIP WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL PARTIES  
WHO ARE PREPARED TO HELP DEFEND INDIAN OCEAN REGION AGAINST  
DANGER OF CONFLICT AND CONFRONTATION. HE ALSO MAKES THE GENERAL  
DISTINCTION, AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, BETWEEN INTERVENTION MOTIVATED  
BY DOMINATION AND GREED AND "FORCES OF LIBERATION WHICH HELP  
US RESIST ATTACKS AND MANUEVERS DIRECTED AGAINST (AFRICAN)  
STABILITY."  
MOST OF SPEECH IS A RESTATEMENT OF MALAGASY POSITIONS ON VARIOUS  
AFRICAN AND INDIAN OCEAN ISSUES, COINED IN USUAL ANTI-IMPERIALIST  
TERMS, THROUGH WHICH RUNS THE SLIGHTLY CONTRADICTORY THEME THAT  
THE IMPERIALISTS ARE AT THE SAME TIME DANGEROUS, DESPERATE,  
AND DOOMED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ANTANA 01259 031542Z

3. CONFUSING STATEMENTS BY RATSIRAKA ON NEED FOR FEDERAL SOLUTION  
IN HORN OF AFRICA UNDOUBTEDLY APPLIES TO ALL OF HORN NOT JUST  
ERITREAN PROBLEM. HE CLAIMS TO BE ORIGINATOR OF THIS IDEA AND  
LAST DECEMBER PUBLICLY EXPRESSED SOME REGRET THAT SOVIETS HAD TAKEN  
IDEA OF HIS AND MADE IT THEIR OWN(REF C).

4. OTHER NOTEWORTHY ASPECT OF RATSIRAKA'S SPEECHES ARE:.

A) BRIEFNESS AND PERFUNCTORY SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREAN POSITION  
ON REUNIFICATION.

B) CITATION OF DIEGO GARCIA AS "MOST STRIKING EXAMPLE" OF INDIAN  
OCEAN BASES WHICH MUST BE DISMANTLED.

C) DENUNCIATION OF INTER-AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE AS A "MERE  
CHANGE OF COSTUMES" WHICH WILL NOT PREVENT "SNATCHING OFF OF  
MASKS."

D) REFERENCE TO "PETITS BOURGEOIS CRUSADE TO DEFEND HUMAN  
RIGHTS"

E) EQUATION OF MALAGASY AND SOVIET SOCIALISM. THIS IS NEW TACT ON  
THIS SUBJECT FOR RATSIRAKA HAS IN THE PAST TAKEN PAINS TO DISTINGUISH  
BETWEEN HUMANISTIC MALAGASY SOCIALISM, WITH THE WELFARE OF MAN AS  
ITS MAIN OBJECT, AND THAT OF PURE COMMUNISM WHICH TREATS MAN  
AS A UNIT OF PRODUCTION OR CONSUMPTION.

5. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF FULSOME PRAISE HEAPED ON SOVIETS I SEE NO RADICAL DEPARTURES IN THE SPEECH FROM POSITIONS WHICH RATISRAKA HAS HELD AND EXPRESSED IN THEPAST. THIS DOS NOT MEAN THAT TRIP COULD NOT LEAD TO CLOSER SOVIET/MALGASY TIES, PARTICULARLY IN MILITARY FIELD. PRESENCE OF SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER AT CEREMONIES AND OF MALAGASY DEFENSE SEC GEN IN RATSIRAKA'S PARTY COULD BE INDICATIVE ON THIS SORE. BARRETT.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, SPEECHES, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ANTANA01259  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780274-0165  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ANTANANARIVO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197807101/aaaadhkc.tel  
**Line Count:** 123  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 584dc06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 MOSCOW 15363  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1850549  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MADAGASCAR PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MOSCOW CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL  
**TAGS:** PEPR, XA, MA, VM, UR, (RATSIRAKA, DIDIER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/584dc06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014