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DECL: 12/04/10



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Background Paper

*Back to Butt*  
*Back to Grant*

TPS? Called and rec

*7*  
*I could not*  
*request*

South Africa - Witvor Butt, UN Sanctions Buster

Victor Anatoly Butt (pronounced BOOT, also known as Butt and Bout) and his associates continue to figure prominently in a host of UN sanctions-busting arms deliveries to numerous African recipients. In recent months, Butt and his organization have used their base in the United Arab Emirates and their large fleet of Russian-built aircraft to deliver helicopters and sophisticated weaponry to Liberia (and the RUF in Sierra Leone), begun exploring possible transactions in illicit diamonds in Kigali, Rwanda and continued to provide logistical and materiel support for both sides in the Angolan conflict. Butt's dealings in diamonds and illicit arms have contributed significantly to continued high levels of bloodshed in Central and Western Africa.

*Southern*

After a review of available intelligence, it appears Butt's organization has violated the following UNSC Sanctions Resolutions.

- UNSC 778 - Liberia arms embargo by making arms sales and possible conduit for diamonds from Sierra Leone
- UNSC 864 - arms embargo on UNITA in Angola
- UNSC 1171 - arms embargo on the Revolutionary United Front
- UNSC 1298 - arms embargo on Ethiopia/Eritrea

Since August, the NSC, State, <sup>1.4c</sup> and domestic law enforcement have substantially increased USG efforts to gather intelligence on Butt's operations. Under Secretary Pickering has chaired an inter-agency meeting to review the range of intelligence, visa denial, diplomatic, and law enforcement options and continues to follow closely our international effort against Butt.

AF DAS Witney Schneidman, in conjunction with NSC National Coordinator Richard Clarke's office, has engaged the government of South Africa, notably with Deputy Foreign *(@ Africa?)*

*@ Africa?*

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Classified by Charles Snyder, AF/RA Director

Reason E.O. 12958 (b) (d)  
Reason E.O. 12958 (d)

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Declassified Under Authority of the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel, E.O. 13526, sec. 5.3(b)(3) ISCAP Appeal No. 2017-189, document 10  
Declassification Date: May 2, 2022

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-2-

Minister Pahad, on Butt. During 1997-1998, Butt operated extensively out of Swaziland and is believed to have bribed Swazi civil air authorities for licenses and registration for as many as 50 transport aircraft. The licenses were revoked in 1998. Aircraft belonging to Butt have also flown missions between Luanda and Johannesburg as recently as July-August 2000.

Deputy FM Pahad and others assure us that they are committed to a thorough investigation of Butt's activities and to exploring potential legal actions against him, including a possible request for his extradition from the United Arab Emirates. Schneidman and a support team hope to travel to South Africa in mid-December to advance the effort. Raising the issue with President Mbeki and Foreign Minister Zuma, acknowledging cooperation and encouraging additional action against Butt will energize the South Africans further and can strengthen bilateral cooperation in mutual support of an important U.N.-mandated goal.

That's funny, because I thought NSC + DOJ participation was the whole point of the trip. Maybe Lee should go. he has a bad up and carrying witness bags.

Grant thinks:

This is bullshit. A poorly-written document that is not nearly as strong or cogent as it could have been if Prince Schneidman had shored a draft with his loyal support team.

Now that I have cooled off... I think this paper shows a lack of respect for the NSC's role and for that of our office. It is not a well-prepared or convincing paper. It is not a team document that outlines a team effort - It is a blow my own horn document. Does not outline our strategy or why it is important that MKA raise, or what she is asking for (i.e. tangible progress by prosecutors to help build a case).

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-3-

Albright Trip: Victor Butt, UN Sanctions Buster

Drafted by AF/RA: R Walser  
12/4/2001 ext. 7-5803

Cleared by: AF: S Rice  
AF: W Schneidman ok  
AF/RA: C Snyder ok  
AF/S: Arender ok  
P: R Meyer ok  
S/P: C Karp ok  
L/AF: G Taft ok  
IO/PHO: D Hinckley ok  
INR/AA: S Weigert subs



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