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CONTROLS

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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 07~~SECRET NOFORN~~

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SERIAL: (U)

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA (SF).

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SUBJ: (U) SOUTH AFRICA--MILITARY
ATTITUDES TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION.

- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY
EVALUATED INTEL. REPORT IS CLASSIFIED ~~SECRET NOFORN~~.
DOI: (U) 900928.

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424; Sec. 1.4(c)

A. ~~(C/NF)~~ DESPITE THE REPUGNANT SYSTEM OF APARTHEID
WHICH HAS BURDENED AND SHAMED SOUTH AFRICA FOR FOUR
DECADES, THE WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTORATE HAS ALWAYS
BEEN A MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY. IT HAS INCLUDED A SYSTEM OF
UNIVERSAL NATIONAL SERVICE FOR WHITE MALES WHICH HAS BEEN
IN LARGE PART RESPONSIBLE FOR INCULCATING INTO THE SADF
MANY OF THE STRENGTHS FOUND IN DEMOCRATIC ARMIES IN OTHER
PARTS OF THE WORLD. IN THIS CATEGORY ARE SUCH THINGS AS
RESPECT FOR CIVIL AUTHORITY, PROFESSIONAL ETHICS,

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COMMITMENT TO SERVICE, A SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE AND UNIT LOYALTIES WHICH OFTEN TRANSCEND OR MODIFY CULTURAL AND ETHNIC BIASES.

B. ~~(C/NF)~~ AT THE SAME TIME, THE APARTHEID POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT (UNDER WHICH VIRTUALLY EVERY SERVING SOLDIER HAS LIVED FOR HIS ENTIRE ADULT LIFE) HAVE CREATED WITHIN THE SADF A PERVASIVE ATTITUDE OF RACIAL SUPERIORITY AND A DEEP SENSE OF FORBODING THAT DEMOCRATIZATION EQUALS CHAOS AND DISORDER. THESE PERCEPTIONS HAVE BEEN REINFORCED BY CONTINUING CALLS FOR VIOLENT REVOLUTION AND ECONOMIC REFORM FROM BLACK ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE ANC, THE MK AND PAC; WIDESPREAD BLACK-ON-BLACK VIOLENCE; AND, CONTINUED USE OF DEFENSE FORCES TO QUELL DOMESTIC DISTURBANCES. THESE PERCEPTIONS, TOGETHER WITH THE LEGACIES OF THE TOTAL ONSLAUGHT AND THE LAGER HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO EXTREMISM IN SOME OFFICIAL GROUPS LIKE THE CCB AND PROVIDE FERTILE GROUND FOR RIGHT WING EXPLOITATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, SADF ATTITUDES ARE BUOYED BY THE DIMINUTION OF DIRECT SOVIET AND CUBAN INFLUENCE IN THE REGION, A SUCCESSFUL DISENGAGEMENT FROM ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA, THE EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE OF NON-WHITE TROOPS DURING THE WAR, THE SURPRISING MODERATION OF NELSON MANDELA AND PRESIDENT DE KLERK'S ABILITY TO DELIVER ON THE INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL FRONT.

C. ~~(C/NF)~~ IN A PHRASE, THE SADF IS COMMITTED TO, BUT WARY OF, THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS. THE SADF PRIDES ITSELF ON--AND GENERALLY EXHIBITS--AN APOLITICAL APPROACH TO SERVICE. AS AN INSTITUTION, THE SADF CAN BE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT AND EXECUTE THE POLICIES OF "THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY." HOWEVER, IF THE THRUST OF NEGOTIATIONS ON ESTABLISHING A MULTI-RACIAL DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE PERCEIVED TO IGNORE MINORITY GUARANTEES OR SERIOUSLY DEGRADE SADF CAPABILITIES TO PROTECT THE STATE; OR, IF A NEW GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE ACTING TO INVALIDATE GUARANTEES OR AGREEMENTS MADE IN THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS, THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN SADF REACTION TO "PROTECT THE STATE" WILL INCREASE.

(b)(1); Sec. 1.4(c)

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