

~~TOP SECRET~~

(b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

**DTG**

081705Z JAN 91

**FROM**

FM SSO DIA (b)(3):10 USC 424

**TO**

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

**CONTROLS**

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SECTION 01 OF 05

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

**BODY**

SUBJ: DIA COMMONWEALTH INTSUM--MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA 26-91/8 JAN 91

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(U) THE ITEM CONTAINED IN THIS INTSUM HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY

DIA (b)(3):10 USC 424

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ZA1RE: CHANGE IN MILITARY LEADERSHIP? ~~(S)~~

AS OF 1820Z 3 JAN 91

1. ~~(S)~~ PRESIDENT MOBUTU IS REPORTEDLY UNHAPPY WITH AT LEAST TWO SENIOR ARMED FORCES LEADERS AND MAY MAKE CHANGES SOON.
2. ~~(S)~~ GEN MAHELE, HEAD OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND OFFICER-IN-CHARGE DURING THE EMBARRASSING PERFORMANCE BY THE SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL DIVISION WHEN IT OPERATED IN **RWANDA** RECENTLY, HAS REPORTEDLY FALLEN INTO DISFAVOR WITH THE PRESIDENT. MAHELE REPORTEDLY POCKETED MOST OF THE MONEY DESIGNATED FOR THE **RWANDA** OPERATIONS; FAILED TO PROVIDE PLANNING, COMMAND, OR OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE TO ZAIRIAN UNITS DURING THE DEPLOYMENT; AND ARGUED SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST THE PARTICIPATION OF MOBUTU'S NEPHEW. MOREOVER, DEFENSE MINISTER ADM MAVUA IS IN DISFAVOR FOR FAILING TO CONTROL RECENT CIVIL DEMONSTRATIONS THAT WERE ANOTHER EMBARRASSMENT FOR MOBUTU. MAVUA IS ALSO HAVING PROBLEMS WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL STAFF ON MILITARY MATTERS.
3. ~~(S)~~ COMMENT: MOBUTU IS WELL KNOWN FOR HIS PERIODIC MILITARY RESHUFFLES TO PREVENT POWER BASES FROM FORMING, AND 11 MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE HE LAST CHANGED THE ARMED FORCES LEADERSHIP. WITH GROWING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, THE CONTINUING THREAT OF CIVIL UNREST, AND AN EVOLVING POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT, CHANGES IN THE HIERARCHY MAY WELL BE MADE. WHO MOBUTU WOULD SELECT TO REPLACE MAHELE OR MAVUA IS AS YET UNDETERMINED, BUT EVEN DISGRACED FIGURES HAVE BEEN REHABILITATED IN THE PAST. RECENT EVIDENCE OF INFIGHTING AMONG

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/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 004 \*\*\*\*\*/

SEN1OR SECURITY FORCES CH1EFS COULD CONTRIBUTE TO MOBUTU'S DECISION. CHANGES MIGHT ALSO BE A SIGN OF THE PRESIDENT'S GROWING CONCERN FOR EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE MILITARY AS A MEANS TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE DIFFICULT T1MES THAT ARE EXPECTED. (~~DECL-~~

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