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Political Military Cuba

SUBJ: DIA DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE (DIN) (U)

DIADIN 61-1A (AS OF: 1235 EST 2 MAR 77)

CUBA: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NEW FISHING ZONES

1. (U) IN INCREASING ITS ECONOMIC RESOURCES ZONE TO 200 NAUTICAL MILES ON 20 FEBRUARY -- FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF THE US AND MEXICO -- HAVANA HAS PROFERRED A WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE COMMON PROBLEMS ARISING OVER TERRITORIALITY WITH STATES WHOSE ZONES OVERLAP THOSE OF CUBA. THIS IS A SIGN THAT THE CASTRO GOVERNMENT

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2. **W**ITHIN ITS **N**E**W** **E**CONOMIC **Z**ONE, **C**UBA **C**LA**I**MS **E**XCLU**S**IVE **R**IGHTS **T**O **E**XPLORATION, **E**X**P**LOITATION, **C**ONS**E**RVATION, **A**ND **A**DMINISTRATION **O**F **N**ATURAL **R**ESOURCES. **H**OWEVE**R**, **W**ITH **T**HE **U**S AND **M**EXICAN **G**OVERNMENTS **H**AVING **E**XTENDED **T**HE SAME **2**00-**M**ILE **L**IMIT **F**ROM **T**HEIR **S**HORES, **C**UBA **S**T**A**nds **T**O **L**OSE **M**UCH **O**F **I**TS **T**RADITIONAL **F**ISHING **G**ROUNDS, **I**N**C**LUDING **T**HE **L**UCRATIVE **S**HELLFISHING **O**FF **F**L**O**RIDA **A**ND **T**EXAS **A**ND **T**HE **C**AMPECHE **Z**ONE **C**LAIMED BY **M**EXICO.

3. **A**T **L**EAST **30-60** **C**UBAN **V**ESSELS **H**AVE **T**RAWL**E**D **T**HE **C**AMPECHE **W**ATERS, **W**HILE **1**00-150 **B**OATS **H**AVE **N**ORMALLY **W**ORKED **T**HE **F**LORIDA **A**ND **T**EXAS **Z**ONES. **C**UBA **H**AS **B**E**C**OME **A** **M**AJOR **F**ISHING **N**ATION. **I**N **1976**, **F**OR **E**X**A**M**P**LE, **I**T **E**X**P**ORTED **S**HELLFISH **A**MOUNTING **T**O **SOME** **$50** **M**ILLION **I**N **H**ARD-CURRENCY **E**ARRINGS. **T**OTAL **H**ARD-CURRENCY **E**ARRINGS **F**OR **T**HE **Y**EAR **A**MOUNTED **T**O **A**BOUT **$673** **M**ILLION. **T**HUS, **A**BOUT **O**NE-TENTH
OF ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPENDS ON SHELLFISH. MOST OF
THOSE TAKEN WERE IN WATERS NOW WITHIN THE US ECONOMIC
ZONE.

HAVANA HAS SENT ITS OCEAN-GOING FACTORY
SHIPS AS FAR AWAY AS ANGOLA. EVEN THOUGH AT LEAST 30
TO 50 CUBAN FISHING BOATS NOW OPERATE ALONG THE ANGOLAN
COAST AND BRING IN A SIZABLE CATCH, NO SIGNIFICANT
AMOUNTS OF SHELLFISH ARE CAUGHT THERE.

5. (U) CUBAN OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED A WILLINGNESS
TO NEGOTIATE WITH THOSE NATIONS — PRESUMABLY MEXICO AND
THE US — WHOSE NEW LIMITS EXCLUDE THE CUBAN FISHING
FLEET. CUBAN RADIO MADE CLEAR THAT HAVANA IS READY TO
INITIATE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON MATTERS OF "RIGHTS"
THAT COULD ARISE. GIVEN THE POOR STATE OF THE COUNTRY'S
ECONOMY CAUSED BY RECENT SUGAR PRICE DROPS AND RESULTANT
AUSTERITY MEASURES ON CONSUMERS, PRESIDENT CASTRO WILL
UNDoubtedly MOVE WITH DISPATCH TO REGAIN SOME OF THE LOST
FISHING GROUNDS. THESE LIMITS WERE IMPOSED BY EACH
NATION TO AID ITS DOMESTIC FISHING INDUSTRIES, A DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL IMPED CUBA'S CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE ITS OWN