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Political Matters Cuba

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

DIADIN 61-1A (AS OF: 1835 EST 2 MAR 77)

CUBA: ~~ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NEW FISHING ZONES~~ (U)

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1. (U) IN INCREASING ITS ECONOMIC RESOURCES ZONE TO 200 NAUTICAL MILES ON 28 FEBRUARY -- FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF THE US AND MEXICO -- HAVANA HAS PROFESSED 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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UNDERSTANDS THE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC IMPACT THE NEW LIMITS WILL HAVE.

2. ~~(S)~~ WITHIN ITS NEW ECONOMIC ZONE, CUBA CLAIMS EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO EXPLORATION, EXPLOITATION, CONSERVATION, AND ADMINISTRATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES. HOWEVER, WITH THE US AND MEXICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVING EXTENDED THE SAME 200-MILE LIMIT FROM THEIR SHORES, CUBA STANDS TO LOSE MUCH OF ITS TRADITIONAL FISHING GROUNDS, INCLUDING THE LUCRATIVE SHELLFISHING OFF FLORIDA AND TEXAS AND THE CAMPECHE ZONE CLAIMED BY MEXICO.

3. ~~(S)~~ AT LEAST 30-60 CUBAN VESSELS HAVE TRAWLED THE CAMPECHE WATERS, WHILE 100-150 BOATS HAVE NORMALLY WORKED THE FLORIDA AND TEXAS ZONES. CUBA HAS BECOME A MAJOR FISHING NATION. IN 1976, FOR EXAMPLE, IT EXPORTED SHELLFISH AMOUNTING TO SOME \$60 MILLION IN HARD-CURRENCY EARNINGS. TOTAL HARD-CURRENCY EARNINGS FOR THE YEAR AMOUNTED TO ABOUT \$600 MILLION. THUS, ABOUT ONE-TENTH

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OF ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPENDS ON SHELLFISH. MOST OF THOSE TAKEN WERE IN WATERS NOW WITHIN THE US ECONOMIC ZONE.

~~(S)~~ 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

Cuba

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NATION ^{To} ~~TO~~ AID ITS DOMESTIC FISHING INDUSTRIES, A DEVELOP-
MENT THAT WILL IMPEDE CUBA'S CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE ITS OWN

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