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SERIAL: MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIGEST (MID) 018-7A

BODY

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICA: DEEPENING DIVISIONS WITHIN THE POLICE

DOI: 18 JAN 94 (AS OF 0100 EST)

TEXT: 1. ~~(C)~~ RACIAL DIVISIONS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN
POLICE COULD LEAD
TO VIOLENCE ON THE EVE OF THE COUNTRY'S DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

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SCHEDULED FOR APRIL.

2. ~~(C)~~ LOYALTY TO THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT IS CHANGING FAST AMONG A GROWING NUMBER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE (SAP). MANY ARE CULTIVATING ALLEGIANCE TO THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC) AND SOME ARE TURNING TO THE MORE RADICAL PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS (PAC). THE SEARCH FOR NEW DIRECTION AND LEADERSHIP HAS LED TO INTERNAL POWER

STRUGGLES BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE POLICE OFFICERS AND BETWEEN PRO- AND ANTI-ANC ELEMENTS.

3. ~~(C)~~ IN NOVEMBER 1989, GREGORY ROCKMAN, A DISSIDENT BLACK POLICEMAN, FOUNDED THE POLICE AND PRISON CIVIL RIGHTS UNION (POPCRU)--THE POLITICAL FORCE BEHIND THE RADICALIZATION OF BLACK POLICEMEN. AGGRESSIVE ANTIGOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND ALLIANCES WITH ANC AND PAC GUERRILLAS HAVE MADE POPCRU A THREAT TO SAP UNITY.

4. ~~(C)~~ POPCRU SUCCESSFULLY BROUGHT PAY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THE BLACK "KITSKONSTABLES"--"INSTANT CONSTABLES"--AND REGULAR SAP PERSONNEL TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER.

("KITSKONSTABLES" WERE RECRUITED IN THE 1980S TO COUNTER RAPIDLY GROWING REBELLIONS IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS.) POPCRU ALSO SEEKS TO END THE

OSTRACISM AND KILLINGS OF BLACK SAP PERSONNEL BY PROMOTING THEIR "REHABILITATION" IN THE BLACK TOWNSHIPS.

5. ~~(C)~~ IN LATE OCTOBER, ANC PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT POPCRU AS A WAY TO CREATE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE SAP.

ACCORDING TO MANDELA, THE ANC PLANNED TO HELP ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REINSTATE DISCHARGED SAP PERSONNEL AND STOP MAKING FURTHER DISMISSALS. THE ANC ALSO INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE POPCRU TO ENLIST WHITE SAP PERSONNEL, THEREBY HELPING TO CREATE FURTHER DIVISIONS WITHIN THE FORCE.

COMMENT

6. ~~(C)~~ THE SAP MUST OVERCOME ITS REPUTATION AS A PAST SUPPORTER OF APARTHEID. MANY SOUTH AFRICANS BELIEVE THAT THE SAP HAS INCITED VIOLENCE IN THE BLACK TOWNSHIPS AND OFTEN HAS FAILED TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCY CALLS FROM THESE MUNICIPALITIES. ON A BROADER LEVEL, CRITICS CLAIM THAT THE SAP HELPED TO PROMOTE AND ENFORCE WHITE RULE AND TO CRUSH RESISTING BLACKS.

7. ~~(C)~~ WITH THE DEMISE OF APARTHEID, THE SAP IS STRUGGLING TO ESTABLISH ITS CREDIBILITY AND TRUST IN THE BLACK COMMUNITIES. BY OVERCOMING THE NOTION THAT IT IS AN ENEMY OF BLACK NATIONALISM, THE SAP SEEKS TO DEFINE A NEW LOYALTY IN AN UNSTABLE COUNTRY ON THE EVE OF ITS FIRST DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS.

8. ~~(C)~~ INTERNAL STRUGGLES WILL HINDER THE SAP'S ABILITY TO ESTABLISH

CREDIBILITY AMONG THE BLACK TOWNSHIPS AND PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA. FOR

EXAMPLE, THE GOVERNMENT FEARS THAT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZING POPCRU

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COULD CAUSE A VIOLENT REACTION FROM WHITE RIGHTWING MEMBERS OF THE SAP.

9. ~~(C)~~ SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE TONED DOWN THEIR ANTI-POPCRU RHETORIC AND APPEAR TO BE MAKING RECONCILIATION EFFORTS WITH PRO-ANC

POPCRU MEMBERS' FOR THEIR PART, ANC LEADERS ARE TRYING TO CALM THEIR

SUPPORTERS WITHIN THE SAP. IF THESE EFFORTS FAIL, VIOLENCE COULD ERUPT BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE EXTREMISTS IN THE SAP AND CAST A SHADOW

OVER THE APRIL ELECTIONS.

10. (U) MUTINY AT MOTHERWELL

IN OCTOBER, THE GOVERNMENT DISARMED AND ARRESTED 88 PRO-POPCRU BLACK

POLICEMEN FOR WHAT WAS SAID TO BE A MUTINY AGAINST THEIR RACIST STATION COMMANDER AT MOTHERWELL ON THE EASTERN CAPE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

SHORTLY AFTER THE MUTINY, 375 BLACK POLICEMEN WERE DISMISSED FOR STRIKING IN SUPPORT OF THE ALLEGED MUTINEERS.

11. ~~(C)~~ BATTLE STRESS.

MORE THAN 200 POLICE HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE PAST 2 YEARS. THIS HIGH

RATE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST SAP PERSONNEL HAS TAKEN A TOLL ON BOTH WHITE

AND BLACK POLICE. AN INCREASING NUMBER ARE SUFFERING FROM STRESS-RELATED PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS, AND MORE THAN 700 WERE DECLARED MEDICALLY UNFIT FOR SERVICE LAST YEAR.

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