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SERIAL: (U)

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) MOZAMBIQUE (MZ); SOUTH AFRICA (SF).

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424SUBJECT: [REDACTED] LAGOS BLOCKS FIRST JOINT
MOZAMBIQUE-SANDF AFRICA ARMS CLEARING OPERATION (U)WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED~~-CONFIDENTIAL-~~-----
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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(U)

SUMMARY: (C) DESPITE CHISSANO-MANDELA ACCORD, FADM
COMMANDER LTG LAGOS BLOCKS THE FIRST JOINT MOZAMBIQUE
POLICE-SANDF CROSS- BORDER OPERATION TO CLEAR AN ARMS
CACHE. LAGOS CLAIMS ESTIMATED 10 TONS OF MUNITIONS
BELONG TO THE FADM. PRETORIA SUSPECTS HANDPRINTS OF
GOV'T OFFICERS AND HALTS ALL COOPERATION. MANY OTHER
CACHES ALSO EXIST ALONG THE BORDER, MOSTLY RENAMO.

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

TEXT: 1. (C)

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

[REDACTED] AFTER MONTHS OF DISCUSSION, PLANNING,
COORDINATION, AND HIGH-LEVEL APPROVAL, THE MOZAMBIKAN
IMMIGRATION POLICE AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL
DEFENSE FORCE (SANDF) WERE SCHEDULED TO LAUNCH THE
FIRST JOINT ARMS CLEARING OPERATION IN EARLY JUNE 95
AT AN ABANDONED PORTUGUESE ARMY AND MOZAMBIKAN ARMED
FORCES (FAM) MILITARY AMMUNITION BASE AT MABALANE(b)(3):10 USC
424[REDACTED] ABOUT 190 KILOMETERS
NORTH OF RESSANO GARCIA AND LOCATED NEAR THE SOUTH
AFRICAN BORDER. THE OPERATION INCLUDED ABOUT 20
MOZAMBIKAN IMMIGRATION POLICE AND SIX (6) SANDF
SOLDIERS AND WAS DESIGNED TO CLEAR AN ESTIMATED 10
TONS OF WEAPONS, MINES, AND MUNITIONS FROM A KNOWN
ARMS CACHE SITE. (b)(1) [REDACTED] THE S ANDF HAD TRACED
ACTIVE LARGE-SCALE ARMS SMUGGLING FROM THIS SITE OVER
THE PAST 12 MONTHS.(b)(3):10 USC
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2. (C) ON THE EVE OF THE OPERATION, HOWEVER, THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE MOZAMBICAN ARMED DEFENSE FORCES (FADM), LIEUTENANT GENERAL ((LAGOS)) LIDIMO, BLOCKED THE ACTION AND PROHIBITED EXTRACTION OF ALL MUNITIONS FROM THE SITE. LTG LAGOS REPORTEDLY TOLD THE IMMIGRATION POLICE THAT THE BASE BELONGS TO THE FADM AND THAT NO MUNITIONS CAN BE EXTRACTED WITHOUT FADM APPROVAL. SOURCE A NOTED THAT LTG LAGOS LIKELY HAS NO INTENTION OF PERMITTING ANYONE BUT THE FADM TO CLEAR THE ARMS CACHE SITE.

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

3. (C) [REDACTED] THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT REACTED WITH CONSIDERABLE CONSTERNATION AND THEN DIRECTED THE AMBASSADOR TO INTERVENE WITH THE MOZAMBICAN DEFENSE MINISTER, MR AGUIAR MAZULA. OVER OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS, HOWEVER, THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN UNABLE TO GET IN TO SEE MR MAZULA. SINCE LAGOS' DECISION, ALL BORDER COOPERATION HAS HALTED.

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

4. (C) [REDACTED] THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT STRONGLY SUSPECTS THE CONTINUING INVOLVEMENT IN ARMS TRAFFICKING BY KEY MOZAMBICAN MILITARY OFFICERS IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE FADM. [REDACTED]

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

[REDACTED] THE FADM ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO CLEAR THE MABALANE CAMP LATE LAST YEAR BUT HAS ENCOUNTERED LOGISTICAL OBSTACLES. [REDACTED] LAGOS' EARLIER COMMENT THAT SINCE THE INSTALLATION BELONGS TO THE FADM, ALL MUNITIONS AND EQUIPMENT IN THE CAMP ARE FADM PROPERTY [REDACTED]

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

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USC 424; 1.4 (c)

6. (C) TURNING TO OTHER CACHE SITES, [REDACTED] THERE ARE "MANY, MANY, MANY" LARGE AND A FEW SMALLER ARMS CACHE SITES ALONG THE BORDER EXTENDING NORTH FROM RESSANO GARCIA TO PAFURI

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

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[REDACTED] ONE PARTICULARLY LARGE [REDACTED] TE IS LOCATED NEAR THE TOWN OF MAPULANGUENE

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[REDACTED] THE SANDE [REDACTED] AS PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED KEY SITES AND CONTINUES TO TRACK ARMS MOVEMENTS. [REDACTED]

(b)(1); 1.4 (c)

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