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HEADER

R 141041Z AUG 92

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RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GM/

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RUFGAID/USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GM//

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SERIAL: (U)

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

BODY

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COUNTRY: (U) SOUTH AFRICA (SF).

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICA--SAP PERSONNEL

UNDERGO PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT - INFORMATION ON INTERNAL
STABILITY UNIT (ISU) (U)WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY
EVALUATED INTEL. REPORT IS CLASSIFIED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~.

- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 920809.

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SOURCE: A. (U) //OPEN//NEWSPAPER, "SUNDAY TIMES" (U),
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, 920900, IN ENGLISH. NEWSPAPER
IS INDEPENDENT AND POLITICALLY MODERATE.

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SUMMARY: (U) REPORTS ON PERSONALITY TESTING ADMINISTERED
TO SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE PERSONNEL. PROVIDES DETAILS ON
THE INTERNAL STABILITY UNIT (ISU).TEXT: 1. (U) SOURCE A REPORTS NEARLY 500 POLICEMEN
SERVING IN THE FRONTLINE OF UNREST AREAS HAVE BEEN
TRANSFERRED TO DESK JOBS AFTER FAILING PERSONALITY TESTS
THAT MEASURE THEIR LEVELS OF STRESS, AGGRESSION AND
HOSTILITY. THE TESTS FORM PART OF A PROGRAM OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF POLICEMEN BY A TEAM OF 35
REGISTERED PSYCHOLOGISTS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS. POLICEMEN
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WERE TESTED.-COL KOBUS ((TRUTER)), OF SAP HEADQUARTERS IN PRETORIA,
SAID THE EFFECTIVE WAY IN WHICH THE MASS MARCHES WERE
HANDLED WAS AN INDICATION OF THE SAP'S CHANGING ATTITUDE.
THIS WAS PARTLY DUE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE PERSONALITY
TESTS. SINCE 1990 MORE THAN 10,000 POLICEMEN HAVE BEEN

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TESTED, INCLUDING 3,200 MEMBERS OF THE 5,600 MEMBERS OF THE RECENTLY FORMED INTERNAL STABILITY UNIT (ISU) AND 7,500 NEW RECRUITS. THE ISU WAS FORMED EARLIER THIS YEAR TO TAKE OVER THE DUTIES OF THE FORMER 4,000 MEMBER RIOT SQUAD. ONLY A QUARTER OF THE FORMER RIOT SQUAD POLICEMEN WERE ABSORBED INTO THE NEW UNIT. POLICEMEN WHO DISPLAYED A HIGH LEVELS OF STRESS, HOSTILITY AND AGGRESSION WERE NOT ADMITTED TO THE ISU. AS A RESULT OF THE PERSONALITY TESTS, 468 ISU POLICEMEN WERE TRANSFERRED FROM DUTIES IN TOWNSHIPS, RIOT CONTROL AND UNREST TO ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS BECAUSE THEIR LEVELS OF STRESS AND AGGRESSION WERE "TOO HIGH".

-ASKED WHETHER POSSIBLE HOSTILITY TOWARDS BLACK PEOPLE BY WHITE POLICEMEN WAS ASSESSED, COL TRUTER SAID, "HOSTILITY IN GENERAL IS MEASURED. IT IS NOT FOCUSED ON A SPECIFIC RACE GROUP. IF EXTREME AGGRESSION IS INDICATED DURING THE PERSONALITY EVALUATION, APPLICANTS WILL BE REFUSED ADMISSION TO A UNIT." COL TRUTER SAID MEMBERS OF THE SAP WERE RECRUITED FROM "SOCIETY AT LARGE" WHERE ATTITUDES WERE "EMBEDDED" AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL. "WITH THIS IN MIND, IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE IS NOT ACCOMPLISHED OVERNIGHT. "IT IS REGARDED AS A LONG TERM PROCESS," HE SAID. POLICEMEN CONTINUOUSLY SUBJECTED TO HIGH LEVELS OF STRESS WOULD BE TESTED REGULARLY IN ORDER TO ASSESS THEIR ABILITY TO COPE.

2. (U) THE SAME SOURCE REPORTS THAT THE ISU IS TO BECOME A SEPARATE ELITE UNIT IN AN ATTEMPT TO BOOST THE SAP'S COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND TO WEATHER SOME OF THE STRONG CRITICISM IT IS FACING. A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE ISU WOULD SOON MOVE FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN PRETORIA TO ITS OWN QUARTERS.

-THE MINIMUM AGE FOR OFFICERS HAS BEEN RAISED TO 21 AND THE PRESENT CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORM - PREVIOUSLY WORN FOR BORDER DUTY - WOULD BE REDESIGNED. A NEW UNIFORM IS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED IN SEP 92.

-MAJ RAY ((HARRALD)), OF THE SAP PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTORATE, HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO DEAL SOLELY WITH THE UNIT WHICH WOULD BE UNDER THE COMMAND OF BRIGADIER JOHAN ((SWART)) WHO HAS WIDE RIOT EXPERIENCE IN THE WESTERN CAPE AND SOWETO.

COMMENTS: 1. ~~(C)~~ THE ISU WAS MUCH IN EVIDENCE DURING LAST WEEK'S ALLIANCE MARCH IN PRETORIA, WHILE LOCAL PAPERS RAN A PICTURE OF THE ISU'S BRIG SWART SHAKING HANDS WITH NELSON ((MANDELA)) DURING THE MARCH. ISU PERSONNEL IN THEIR DISTINCTIVE UNIFORMS AND ARMED WITH SHOTGUNS AND "RUBBER BULLET" PROJECTORS WERE PRESENT ON THE UNION BUILDING GROUNDS AND, LATER, IN THE VICINITY OF SAP HEADQUARTERS. RO CONTINUES TO BE STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT THE SAP RIOT CONTROL PERSONNEL LACK THE MOST RUDIMENTARY RIOT CONTROL EQUIPMENT. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, DURING LAST WEEK'S MARCH IT WAS SADF PERSONNEL THAT WERE FITTED

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OUT IN BODY ARMOR AND FACE SHIELDS WHILE SAP OFFICERS WORE
ONLY THEIR NORMAL UNIFORMS.

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