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USC 424,
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USC 3024
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POLITICAL MATTERS-CUBA

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FROM

(b)(3):10
USC 424

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109-12-210

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

DIADIN 208-1A (AS OF: 1240 EDT 27 JUL 77)

CUBA: ANNIVERSARY SPEECHMAKING HELD FEW SURPRISES. (U)

1. (U) PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO ADDRESSED OFFICIALS AND OTHER PEOPLE IN CAMAGUEY, SOME 30 KM EAST OF HAVANA, ON THE 24TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ABORTIVE ATTACK ON AN ARMY BARRACKS THAT BEGAN THE INSURGENCY LEADING TO HIS SEIZURE OF POWER. ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO MAKE A MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT, NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE RE-

PAGE 2 ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

FLECTED ONLY A MENTION OF CUBA 'S OVERSEAS CIVILIAN
PRESENCE, WHICH THE PRESIDENT SAID WOULD INCREASE BY
2,000 BY YEAR 'S END.

2. (U) THE BULK OF THE ADDRESS HIGHLIGHTED DOMESTIC
ISSUES, INCLUDING THE ALLEGEDLY UNDIMINISHED ENTHUSIASM
FOR THE REVOLUTION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND SUGAR CANE
PRODUCTION.

3. (U) REFERENCES TO OVERSEAS COMMITMENTS CAME MIDWAY
IN THE SPEECH. COMMENTING THAT CUBANS STRUGGLED NOT ONLY
FOR THEMSELVES, CASTRO ADDED, "THERE ARE 4,000 CUBAN
CIVILIANS... IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD... AND BY THE
END OF THE YEAR THERE WILL BE ABOUT 6,000." HE MENTIONED
A PLANNED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DOCTORS IN BOTH ANGOLA
AND ETHIOPIA. AS HE HAD DONE IN AN INTERVIEW IN A
BRAZILIAN MAGAZINE, THE CUBAN LEADER DID NOT SPEAK OF HIS
OVERSEAS MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS.

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

4. ~~(C)~~ A DISCERNABLE TREND IN HAVANA'S PRONOUNCEMENTS MAY BE DEVELOPING, WHICH SEEMS TO BE POINTING TO EMPHASIS ON CIVIC-ACTION PROJECTS ABROAD AND IGNORING MILITARY REALITIES. CASTRO DID NOT MENTION THE INCREASED MILITARY COMMITMENT HE HAD RECENTLY MADE TO THE NETO GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA, FOR EXAMPLE. HE DID HOME IN ON A PROBLEM HIS FOREIGN AID IS HAVING DOMESTICALLY, HOWEVER. CITING THE INCREASED EXPORT OF MEDICAL AND ENGINEERING SPECIALISTS, HE SAID THAT CUBANS MUST NOT BE AFRAID OF GRADUATING TOO MANY DOCTORS AND ENGINEERS. THIS IS QUITE LIKELY THE FIRST ADMISSION -- ALBEIT INDIRECT -- THAT A TECHNOLOGICAL AND PROFESSIONAL DRAIN ON MANPOWER SKILLS MAY BE OCCURRING.

5. ~~(S)~~ ON BALANCE, THE MONCADA BARRACKS SPEECH SERVED AS A FORUM FOR DOMESTIC ISSUES. GIVEN THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY, SUCH EMPHASIS WOULD NOT BE UNEXPECTED. NONETHELESS, CUBAN MOTIVES ARE SELDOM CAST SOLELY IN A DOMESTIC OR INTERNAL FRAMEWORK, AND CASTRO MAY BE PLAYING DOWN INTERNATIONAL THEMES FOR GOOD REASON. WHILE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT EITHER MOSCOW OR HAVANA HAVE RETREATED FROM THEIR BACKING

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OF NETO, CASTRO NONETHELESS COULD BE SETTING THE STAGE
FOR MUTING HIS MILITARY SUPPORT TO THE POPULAR MOVEMENT
GOVERNMENT. CASTING AN ANXIOUS GLANCE TOWARD JULY, 1979,
WHEN CUBA HOSTS THE NONALIGNED CONFERENCE, CASTRO MAY HAVE
LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR LOWERING HIS MILITARY VISIBILITY
IN ANGOLA.

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