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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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SUBJ: 57 AUG 11 1978 INTELLIGENCE NOTICE (DIN) (U)

DIADIN 192-6A (AS OF: 1705 EDT 11 JUL 78)

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS: USE OF AIR FACILITIES.

1. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ PREVIOUS REPORTS CONCERNING THE USE OF AMILCAR CABRAL AIRPORT ON SAL ISLAND AS A TRANSIT POINT FOR CUBANS EN ROUTE TO AFRICA HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED. REPORTS FROM SEVERAL SOURCES INDICATE THAT CUBAN AND ANGOLAN AIRWAYS FLIGHT TRAFFIC THROUGH SAL INCREASED DRAMATICALLY IN MARCH, PEAKED IN APRIL AND MAY, AND HAS SINCE DECLINED.

PAGE 2

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2. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ ALTHOUGH NOT CONFIRMED,

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

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3. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ THE CAPE VERDEAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH PREVIOUSLY DENIED PRESS REPORTS THAT SAL WAS BEING USED AS A CUBAN MILITARY TRANSIT POINT, HAS NOW CONFIRMED PASSAGE OF CUBANS THROUGH AMILCAR CABRAL.

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

4. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ IT IS CLEAR THAT MANY PRESSURES AND CONSIDERATIONS WERE INVOLVED IN THE CAPE VERDEAN DECISION TO ALLOW USE OF SAL AS A TRANSIT POINT FOR CUBAN PERSONNEL HEADED FOR AFRICA. AMONG THOSE CITED BY PRESIDENT PEREIRA IN A MEETING WITH THE US AMBASSADOR ON 6 JULY, DURING WHICH PEREIRA CONFIRMED THE PASSAGE, INCLUDE A CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT THAT HAS EXISTED BETWEEN CAPE VERDE AND CUBA SINCE 1976. IN ADDITION, CUBAN PASSENGERS ON THE FLIGHTS

PAGE 3

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TRAVEL IN A "CIVILIAN" STATUS. ALTHOUGH THE CAPE VERDEANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT EXPANDING CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA, THEY ARE COMMITTED TO THE SUPPORT AND DEFENSE OF THE NETO GOVERNMENT AND PERCEIVE THAT AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT, THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA NEEDS A CUBAN PRESENCE TO SURVIVE. FOR THESE REASONS, WHILE PEREIRA WOULD PROBABLY RATHER NOT HAVE CUBANS PASSING THROUGH SAL, THEIR USE OF AMILCAR CABRAL IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE.

(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(6)

~~(XGDS 4 DECLASSIFY UPON NOTIFICATION BY THE ORIGINATOR)~~

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(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)