

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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DATE 4/22/80 BY 10050 AUC BCD/mthm

POLITICAL MATTERS CUBA

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TO DIA (b)(3):10 USC 424

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BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL/FORM~~ 5012

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

DIADIN 111-7A (AS OF: 1635 EST 21 APR 78)

ETHIOPIA: MENGISTU'S TRIP. (U)

1. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ ETHIOPIAN LEADER LT COL MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAM LEFT ON A OFFICIAL VISIT TO CUBA ON 20 APRIL ACCOMPANIED BY A NUMBER OF CIVILIAN ADVISORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PMAC AND CABINET. THE ANNOUNCED PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO THANK CUBA FOR ITS MILITARY AID IN THE RECENT CONFLICT WITH SOMALIA. MENGISTU VISITED CUBA LAST OCTOBER BEFORE PROCEEDING TO EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION.

2. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND ETHIOPIA ARE CLOSE, MAINLY AS A RESULT OF CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN THE OGADEN WAR. CUBAN PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CAS-

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TRO WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY MENGISTU'S REVOLUTIONARY CREDENTIALS WHEN THE TWO MET LAST SPRING IN ADDIS ABABA. THAT MEETING LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE INCREASING CUBAN COMMITMENT TO THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION. DURING MEETINGS BETWEEN THE CUBANS AND ETHIOPIANS, THE SUBJECT OF ERITREA WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY COME UP. CASTRO WILL PROBABLY STRESS THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN ERITREA AND ATTEMPT TO FIND A FORMULA THAT MAY BE ATTRACTIVE TO MENGISTU AND THE ER
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FACTIONS. HE WILL PROBABLY DEFER A MILITARY COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME, BUT WE BELIEVE HE WILL ACCEDE TO THE USE OF CUBAN COMBAT TROOPS IN ERITREA IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY.

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

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