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**POLITICAL MATTERS - Cuba**

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

R 012109Z DEC 77 ZEA  
 FM DIA WASHINGTON DC/  
 TO DIA (b)(3):10 USC 424  
 DATE  
 BT  
 DECLASSIFIED  
~~SECRET~~ 6322 ON *[signature]*

*[Redacted]*  
 2-210-7453  
 11 DEC 6 1977

SUBJ: DIA DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE (DIN) (U)  
 DIADIN 335-1A *[initials]* AS OF: 1211 EST 1 DEC 77  
 CUBA: *558* FIRST DELIVERY OF SOVIET MINESWEEPERS. *(b)(3)*

109-12-210-7453

~~1.01~~ THE FIRST YEVGENYA-CLASS INSHORE MINESWEEPERS (MSI'S) TO BE EXPORTED BY THE USSR TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY CUBA. THE SOVIET FREIGHTER KLIN WITH TWO MINESWEEPERS OF THIS CLASS ON DECK ARRIVED AT HAVANA/MARIEL ON 30 NOVEMBER. THE HULL OF THIS RELATIVE NEW, SMALL SHIP IS BELIEVED TO CONSIST OF A FIBER GLASS-REINFORCED PLASTIC, THEREBY ENABLING IT TO BE USED AGAINST MAGNETIC MINES. THE CRAFT NORMALLY CARRIES UNDERWATER TELEVISION MINEHUNTING EQUIPMENT, UTILIZING FLOOD LIGHTS TO ILLUMINATE THE BOTTOM AT DEPTHS UP TO 20 METERS. WHEN A MINE APPEARS ON THE TV MONITOR -- THE CAMERA BEING TOWED UNDERWATER -- A BUOY IS RELEASED FROM A TOWED CONTAINER FOR

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MARKING THE POSITION TO GUIDE A DIVER FOR SUBSEQUENT MINE REMOVAL. MECHANICAL SWEEP EQUIPMENT IS ALSO CARRIED BY THIS UNIT. THE ACQUISITION OF THIS CLASS OF SHIP WILL ENHANCE THE CUBAN NAVY'S CAPABILITY TO CLEAR MINES, SHOULD THE NEED ARISE, ON THE APPROACHES TO THE ISLAND'S MAIN NAVAL BASES AT MARIEL, CIENFUEGOS, AND CABANAS.

2. <sup>(S)</sup> THIS DELIVERY IS SIMILAR TO THE INITIAL EXPORT OF THREE YEVGENYA-CLASS MSI'S TO IRAQ IN EARLY MARCH 1975. THE IRAQI YEVENYAS, HOWEVER, WERE EQUIPPED WITH ONE TWIN 25-MM AA MOUNT FORWARD INSTEAD OF THE USUAL SOVIET INSTALLATION OF ONE TWIN 14.5-MM MOUNT. IT IS NOT YET KNOWN IF THE CUBAN MSI'S ARE SIMILARLY MODIFIED.

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