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NS SECTION

\*POLITICAL MATTERS - Cuba

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Adm. Serv.	
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*S. J. [Signature]*

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

DIADIN 335-1A *1211* AS OF: 1211 EST 1 DEC 77

CUBA: *558C 13 1977* FIRST DELIVERY OF SOVIET MINESWEEPERS. *(u)*

11 DEC 6 1977

109-12-210-7453

1. ~~the~~ 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 MINE-  
SWEEPERS 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 ENAB-  
LING IT TO BE USED AGAINST MAGNETIC MINES. THE CRAFT NORMALLY  
CARRIES UNDERWATER TELEVISION MINEHUNTING EQUIPMENT, UTILIZING  
FLOODLIGHTS 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. ~~(S)~~ THIS DELIVERY IS SIMILAR TO THE INITIAL EXPORT OF THREE YEVENYA-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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