

WUBA - MOZAMBIQUE: CLOSER TIES. (U)

1. (S/NDFORN) CUBA WILL SEND AT LEAST 700 MORE CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS TO MOZAMBIQUE UNDER A COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN LATE OCTOBER. THIS INCREASE WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE HAVANA'S CIVILIAN COMMITMENT THERE TO BETWEEN 850 AND 1,000, ONE OF THE LARGEST CUBAN CIVILIAN ADVISORY CONTINGENTS IN THE WORLD.

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

Last page redacted in full IAW FOIA b3 and b6 exemptions. Page not included.

PAGE 2 3 E C R E T

2. (0/NOFORN) MOST OF THE 150 CUBAN TECHNICIANS ALREADY IN MOZAMBIQUE ARE ON ONE-YEAR CONTRACTS AND ARE EXPECTED TO DEPART SOON. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THE PLANNED INCREASE WILL INCLUDE REPLACEMENTS FOR THESE PEOPLE. THE MACHEL GOVERNMENT'S EXPERIENCE WITH CUBAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HAS GENERALLY BEEN POSITIVE, AND MAPUTO PROBABLY HAD HOPED FOR A LARGER NUMBER THAN THE EXPECTED 700. THE AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION ALSO STIPULATES THAT SOME 1,700 WORKERS FROM MOZAMBIQUE WILL GO TO CUBA, PRESUMABLY FOR CONSTRUCTION TRAINING LIKE THAT. CURRENTLY PROVIDED TO JAMAICAN YOUTHS. IN ADDITION, SOME 1,200 SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL STUDY IN CUBA, WHERE THERE ARE ALREADY AN ESTIMATED 2,200 MOZAMBICAN STUDENTS.

THE AGREEMENT SUGGEST THAT THE ADDITIONAL CUBANS WILL HAVE A CIVILIAN RATHER THAN A MILITARY ROLE. THERE ALSO APPEARS TO BE AN INCREASE IN BILATERAL MILITARY COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE AUGUST VISIT OF MOZAMBICAN VICE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE GUEBUZA. CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS, ESTIMATED TO NUMBER AT LEAST 500, ARE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND TO MOZAMBICAN MILITARY FORCES.

