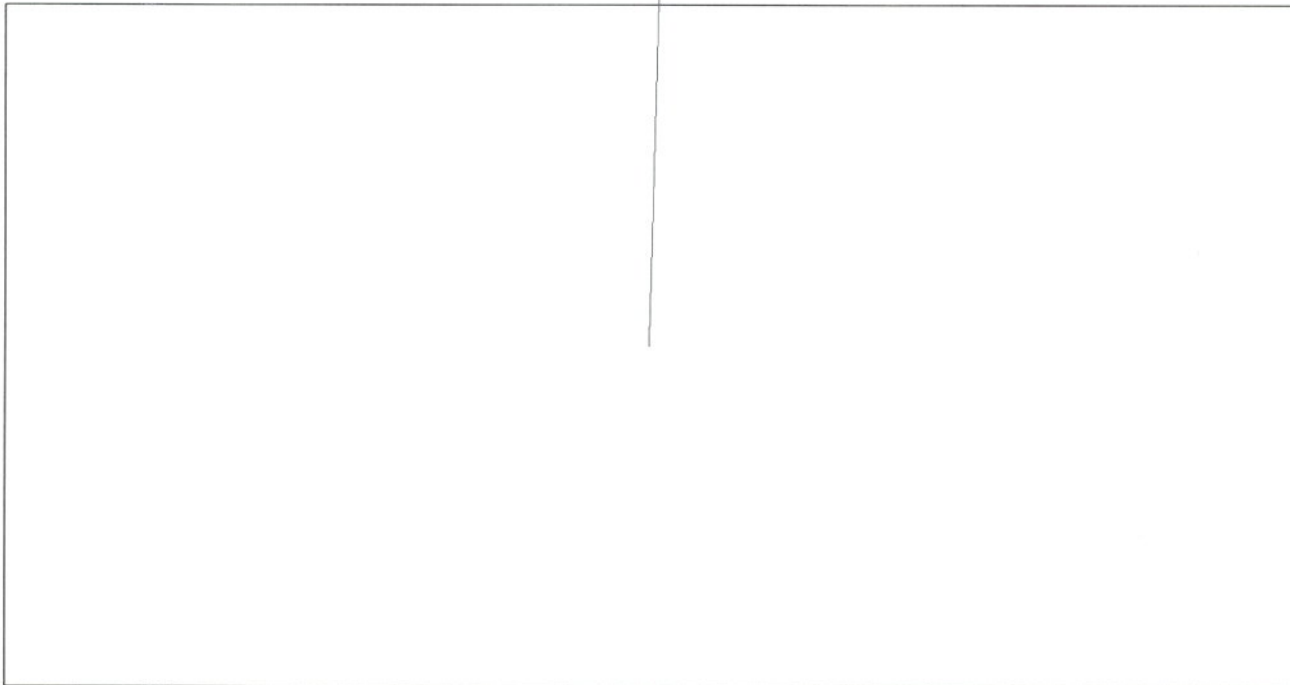


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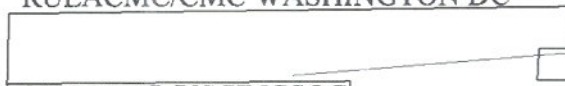


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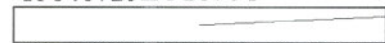
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/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA (SF).

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SUBJ: (U) COURT AVIATION - SOUTH AFRICA'S LARGEST HELICOPTER BUSINESS.

- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL. REPORT IS CLASSIFIED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~. DOI: (U) 910529.

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SOURCE: A. (U) //OPEN//MAGAZINE, "MURRAY AND ROBERTS SURVEY" (U), JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA 910529, IN ENGLISH.

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SUMMARY: (U) REPORTS ON MURRAY AND ROBERS ASSOCIATE COURT HELICOPTERS, SOUTH AFRICA'S LARGEST HELICOPTER BUSINESS AND AMONG THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD FOR SERVICING SHIPS..

TEXT: 1. (U) COURT HELICOPTERS IS AN ASSOCIATE OF MURRAY AND ROBERTS

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COURT IS ACTIVE IN MAY AREAS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES.

2. (U) COURT'S FLEET OF AIRCRAF T IS MADE UP OF 27 HELICOPTERS, INCLUDING EIGHT TWIN ENGINE MACHINES CAPABLE OF CARRYING 24 PEOPLE - THE ONLY CRAFT OF THEIR KIND IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND IN HIGH DEMAND IN MOST COUNTRIES FOR POWER AND VERSATILITY. WHILE COURT PROVIDES AIRCRAFT FOR VARIOUS RADIO STATION TRAFFIC REPORTS, AND WAS INVOLVED IN FERRYING NELSON MANDELA TO HIS FIRST RALLY IN DURBAN, THE CORE OF THE COMPANY'S BUSINESS HAS BEEN INDUSTRIAL. PART OF THIS CORE BUSINESS IS IN SERVICING PASSING SHIPS. TANKERS ROUNDING THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, WHICH STAY FAR OFF LAND, ARE SERVICED WITH CREW AND SUPPLIES FERRIED BY COURT. OFFSHORE SERVICING EXTENDS TO OIL RIGS AND LIGHTHOUSES. COURT HAS BEEN INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN THE MOSSGAS OFFSHORE GAS PROJECT, FLYING REGULARLY TO THE DRILLING PLATFORM CARRYING STAFF AND EQUIPMENT. THREE AIRCRAFT, TWO OF THEM LARGE SIKORSKY UNITS, ARE ON PERMANENT CHARTER TO SOEKOR IN GEORGE.

3. (U) ANOTHER LARGE MACHINE REMAINS IN CAPE TOWN AS PART OF THE SHIP SUPPLY SERVICE, WHILE A FOURTH IS OV ERSEAS ON LONG TERM CHARTER. ACCORDING TO COURT MANAGING DIRECTOR JEREMY ((LABUSCHAGNE)), LONG AND MEDIUM TERM CHARTER ARE A CRUCIAL PART OF COURT'S BUSINESS.

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COURT HAS, FOR EXAMPLE, OPERATED IN SOUTH AMERICA AND EVEN HAD SOME AIRCRAFT "ANNEXED" BY THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE DURING THE FALKLANDS WAR. "WE HAVE DEFINITE TARGETS ON USAGE OF OUR AIRCRAFT," SAYS LABUSCHAGNE. ON LARGER HELICOPTERS, COURT WANTS 100 HOURS PER AIRCRAFT PER MONTH, WITH SMALLER MACHINES TARGETED FOR 50 HOURS. "IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO HAVE A STABLE BASE LOAD OF BUSINESS BECAUSE OUR EQUIPMENT IS SO EXPENSIVE."

4. (U) BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO ENSURE OPTIMAL UTILIZATION, COURT HAS BEEN EXPANDING ITS SPHERE OF OPERATIONS, SUCH AS INTO THE CAPE AND JOHANNESBURG TOURISM BUSINESS. THE MAKING OF MOVIES TOO IS PART OF THE "NICHE MARKET STRATEGY" COURT HAS ADOPTED. ONE OF THE MORE IMAGINATIVE WAYS OF DIVERSIFYING IS POWERLINE INSULATOR CLEANING FOR ESKOM USING HELICOPTERS, SOMETHING COURT HAS BEEN DOING SINCE 1988. A BUILD UP OF DIRT ON POWERLINE INSULATORS IMPAIRS THE EFFICIENCY OF ESKOM'S GRID. THE HELICOPTER, FITTED WITH A BOOM WAND AS MUCH AS 10 METERS LONG THROUGH WHICH WATER IS SPRAYED, WEAVES IN AND OUT OF THE LINES IN CLEANING INSULATORS. HELICOPTERS ARE ALSO BEING USED IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION, FROM POURING CONCRETE TO LIFTING CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY TO OUT OF THE WAY PLACES.

5. (U) MAKING ASSETS WORK ALSO APPLIES TO COURT'S REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES. HELICOPTER AND FIXED WING MAINTENANCE FACILITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY, AS WELL AS HANGAR FACILITIES, GENERATE REVENUE AND KEEP COURT'S TECHNICAL CAPACITY AT A HIGH LEVEL OF UTILIZATION. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SKILL OF COURT'S TECHNICAL SERVICES, THE COMPANY BOUGHT AND REFURBISHED A 24 SEAT SIKORSKY S61 WHICH CRASHED ON TOP OF NEW YORK'S PAN AM BUILDING SOME YEARS AGO. THE AIRCRAFT WAS STRIPPED DOWN AND REMOVED FROM THE BUILDING THROUGH THE SERVICE LIFT, FREIGHTED BACK TO SOUTH AFRICA AND REBUILT. TODAY THE SAME AIRCRAFT FLEW OUT OF COURT'S CAPE TOWN DOCK FACILITY.

6. (U) COURT HAS ALSO BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF SOUTH AFRICA'S RESCUE CAPABILITY. FOUR HELICOPTERS ARE CHARTERED BY THE JOHN ROLFE RESCUE FLEET. COURT PARTICIPATES IN OCEAN SALVAGE BY TAKING TEAMS TO STRIKEN VESSELS AND AIRLIFTING OFF CREWS.

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(b)(1);(b)(3):10 USC 424;Sec. 1.4 (c)

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