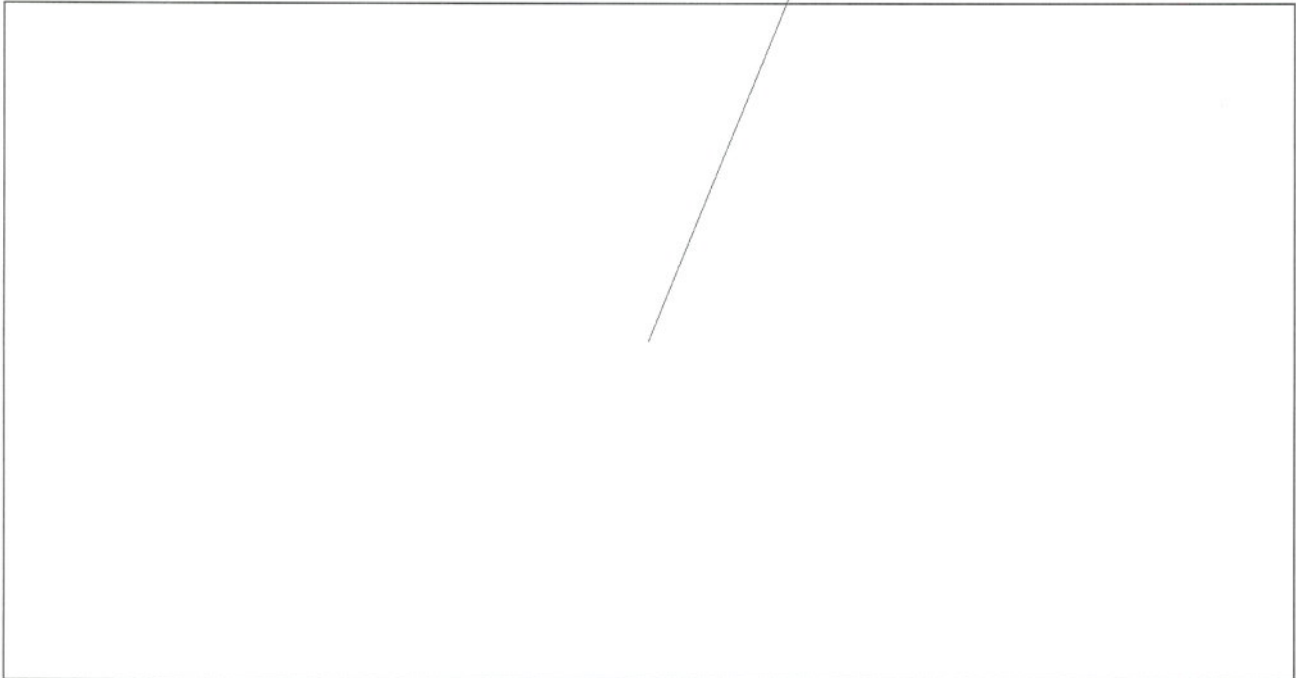


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SECTION 01 OF 02

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SERIAL: [redacted]

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

BODY

(b)(3):10 USC 424

COUNTRY: (U) SOUTH AFRICA (SF)

SUBJ: [redacted] PLANS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN NAVY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION "NAVY 75," SIMONSTOWN PORT FACILITIES(U)

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 970131.

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SUMMARY: ~~(S/U O)~~ PREPARATIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN NAVY (SAN) ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, "NAVY 75" WERE DISCUSSED DURING VISITS TO PRETORIA AND SIMONSTOWN 27-31 JAN. SCHEDULE AND PARTICIPANTS FOR "NAVY 75" WERE BRIEFED. INCLUDED IN VISIT WERE A TOUR OF SIMONSTOWN NAVAL BASE AND PIER FACILITIES.

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TEXT: ~~(S/U O)~~ A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE SCHEDULE FOR "NAVY 75" WAS GIVEN 27 JAN AT SAN HEADQUARTERS IN PRETORIA

[redacted] PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA, NELSON ((MANDELA)), WILL REVIEW PARTICIPATING SHIPS FROM THE "SAS PROTEA" IN SIMONSTOWN HARBOR [redacted] THE "PROTEA" IS A RESEARCH VESSEL WHICH HAS BEEN SPECIALLY MODIFIED TO PROTECT THE PRESIDENT AND VISITING VIPS FROM THE WEATHER. SAN OFFICIALS ALLUDED TO THE PRESIDENT'S FRAIL CONDITION AND SAID THEY WANTED TO DO ALL THEY COULD TO KEEP HIM HEALTHY UNTIL THE ELECTIONS IN 1999.

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3. ~~(S/U O)~~ VISITING VIPS WHO ATTEND NAVY 75 WILL ALSO BE ABOARD "PROTEA" FOR THE REVIEW. THE SENIOR OFFICER REPRESENTING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL BE FI RST SEA LORD ADMIRAL SIR JOCK ((SLATER)) FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM. THE CHIEF OF THE CUBAN NAVY WILL ALSO ATTEND, BUT NO CUBAN SHIPS WILL PARTICIPATE.

4. ~~(S/U O)~~ COUNTRIES WHO HAD CONFIRMED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT "NAVY 75," LISTED BY COUNTRY AND SHIP NAME --

- ARGENTINA "ARA PARKER," "ARA ROSALES"
- BRAZIL "CONSTITUICAO," "FRONTIN," "ALMTE GASTAO MOTTA"
- FRANCE "LA GARONNE," "LA RIEUSE"
- GABON "BA OUMAR"

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- INDIA "INS TIR"
- RUSSIA "NASTOYCHIVY," "IVAN BUBNOV"
- TAIWAN "WU-YI"
- SINGAPORE "RSS PERSEVERANCE"
- UNITED KINGDOM "HMS CHATHAM"
- URUGUAY "URUGUAY"

COUNTRIES WHO MAY ATTEND BUT HAD NOT CONFIRMED INCLUDE CONGO, DENMARK, INDONESIA, KENYA, SPAIN, MAURITIUS, MALAYA, OMAN AND ITALY.

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

5. ~~(S/UC)~~ A PARADE OF ABOUT 4,000 SAILORS FROM PARLIAMENT TO CITY HALL WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE CELEBRATION. [REDACTED] SAN OFFICERS' COMMENTS ABOUT THE CELEBRATIONS INDICATED THE NAVY IS USING THIS CELEBRATION TO TRY TO IMPRESS PARLIAMENT AND FAVORABLY

AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF CURRENT DEFENSE BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS.)

6. ~~(S/UC)~~ SAN OFFICERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR INABILITY TO PATROL THEIR ECONOMIC ZONE. THEY HAVE C-47 DAKOTAS FOR MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT AND MINISTER CLASS FAST ATTACK MISSILE CRAFT, BUILT WITH ISRAELI ASSISTANCE IN THE 1970-80S, WILL BE OBSOLETE BY 2005. [REDACTED]

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

-- THE MINISTER CLASS CRAFT ARE NOT THE RIGHT CRAFT FOR THOSE WATERS. THEY WERE DESIGNED FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN, CALMER WATERS AND SHORTER DISTANCES.)

7. ~~(S/UC)~~ THE SAN WOULD LIKE TO BUILD OR BUY A CORVETTE OR FRIGATE-SIZE SHIP BUT THERE ARE LOTS OF CONCERNS ABOUT BUILDING. THE SAN HAS THE CAPABILITY TO BUILD VERY LARGE SHIPS BUT AT A HIGH COST BECAUSE OF THE REQUIRED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

8. ~~(S/UC)~~ AT SIMONSTOWN A THOROUGH TOUR OF DOCKYARD FACILITIES WAS HOSTED BY CAPTAIN ((SUNDERLAND)) AND COMMANDER ROBERT ((SHELLEY)). SIMONSTOWN NAVAL BASE IS A FULL SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT. IT CAN TAKE SHIPS UP TO, BUT NOT INCLUDING AIRCRAFT CARRIERS. THE FACILITIES ARE IN GOOD SHAPE AND THE BASE WAS CLEAN, WELL-KEPT AND ORDERLY. MORALE APPEARED TO BE GOOD. PERSONNEL WERE PROFESSIONAL IN APPEARANCE AND DEMEANOR.

9. ~~(S/UC)~~ THE ONLY THINGS THE BASE CANNOT REPAIR ARE GAS TURBINES AND NUCLEAR ENGINEERING. THE REPAIR EQUIPMENT SIGHTED WAS RELATIVELY MODERN. THE DRY DOCKS WERE BUILT BY THE BRITISH NAVY AND CAN ACCOMMODATE SHIPS UP TO HEAVY CRUISERS.

10. ~~(S/UC)~~ SAN OFFICIALS TOLD SOURCE THE BASE HAS A FULL DIVE TEAM, EOD AND SALVAGE CAPABILITY AND A NAVAL TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT.

11. ~~(S/UC)~~ THE SAN IS PROUD OF ITS SAN MINE WARFARE CAPABILITY AND OFFICIALS SAID THE BELGIANS WERE SENDING A CONTINGENT TO SOUTH AFRICA TO LEARN MINE WARFARE. SAN MINE COUNTERMEASURE SHIPS ARE MOSTLY EX-BRITISH TON CLASS SHIPS REBUILT AT TEN PERCENT OF THE COST OF BUILDING NEW SHIPS.

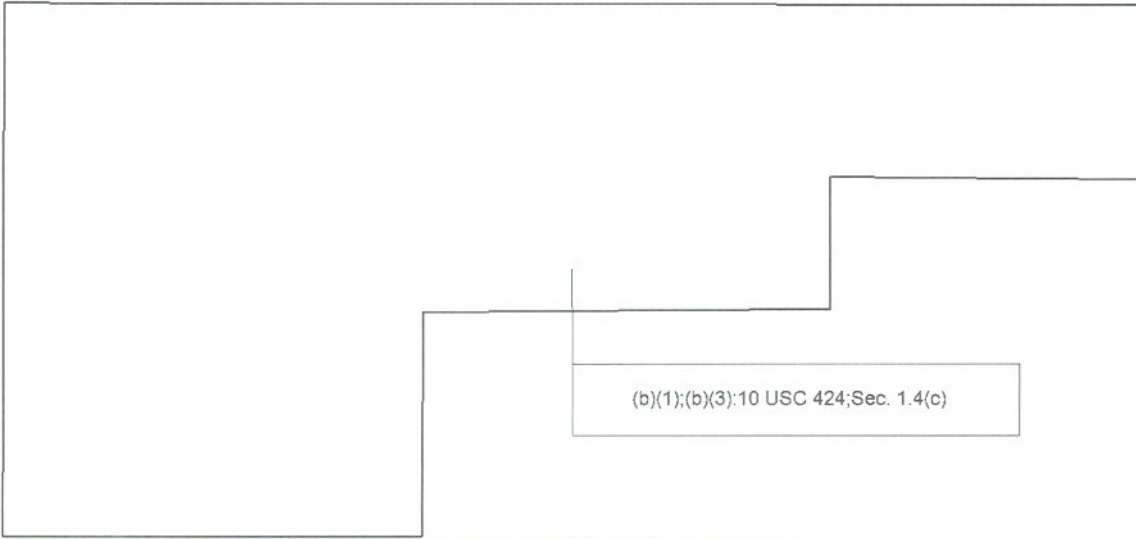
12. ~~(S/UC)~~ THE OUTENIQUA, A LARGE LOGISTICS SUPPORT VESSEL, WAS RECENTLY PURCHASED FROM THE UKRAINE. IT IS AN ICEBREAKER, IT CAN CARRY TROOPS AND HAS A MODEST POWER PROJECTION CAPABILITY.

13. ~~(S/UC)~~ OF THE SAN'S THREE EX-FRENCH DAPHNE CLASS SUBMARINES, ONLY ONE WAS IN THE WATER. ONE HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN TAKEN OUT RECENTLY AND WAS ON A MARINE RAILWAY. ONE WAS IN OVERHAUL IN AN

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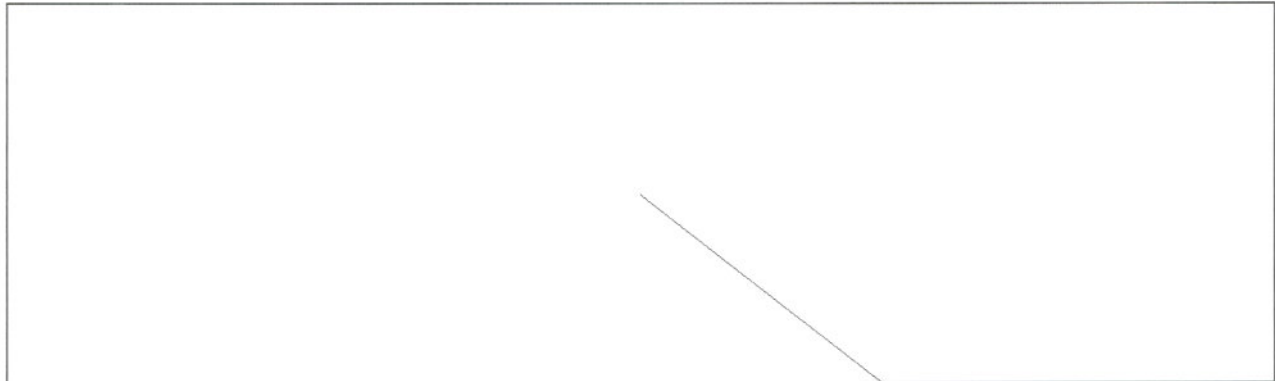
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