CONFIDENTIAL

47/28/1

FRP:

STATE

79 2022347

PAGE 001

TOR: 201719Z FEB 79

NC 2022347

PP RUEAIIB
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
PP RUEHC
DE RUEHUB #1052 0511330
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P R 201301Z FEB 79
FM USINT HAVANA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5444
RUEJCS/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO RUEMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 412
BT

CONFIDENTIAL HAVANA 1052

E.O. 12065; GS 2/16/85 (GLASSMAN JON D.) OR-P
TAGS: MILI, CU, UR
SUBJECT: (C) MIG-23'S IN CUBA

1. C- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OFFICIAL MAGAZINE VERDE OLIVO
(NUMBER 7/79), RECEIVED FEBRUARY 15, CARRIES SEVEN PAGE ARTICLE
ENTITLED "THese ARE THE MIG-23'S". ARTICLE CONTAINS NUMEROUS
PHOTOS, OF VARYING QUALITY, OF INTAKE RAILS AND UNDERSIDE OF
MIG-23F GROUND ATTACK AIRCRAFT NUMBER 716—INCLUDING CLEAR
SHOTS OF BOM RACKS. WE PRESUME PURPOSE OF ARTICLE IS TO DEMON-
STRATE THAT CUBAN GROUND ATTACK VERSIONS ARE MIG-23F, AND NOT
MIG-23D (MIG-27).

3. ARTICLE CONCERNS PLAYA GIRON GUARDS AIR REGIDE, WHICH,
JUDGING FROM COLLATERAL DETAILS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE, IS LOCATED
AT SAN ANTONIO DE LOS BANDOS AIR BASE. ONE PHOTO IN ARTICLE SHOWS
LINE-UP OF NINE MIG-23'S OF WHICH AT LEAST THREE AND POSSIBLY
AS MANY AS EIGHT MAY BE GROUND ATTACK VERSIONS. QUALITY
OF PHOTO DETERIORATES IN BACKGROUND, FYI ARTICLE STATES THAT
NINE MIG-23'S OF UNSPECIFIED TYPES — THREE "TROIKA" — TOOK
PART IN OVERFLT OF HANGARY 2 MILITARY PARADE, END FYI.)
INTERESTING DETAIL IS THAT ONLY INTERCEPTOR MODEL SHOWN (IN

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1
CONFIDENTIAL

79 2022347 PAGE 002 NC 2022347
TOR: 2017192 FEB 79

FOREGROUND OF PHOTO CARRIES NUMBER 701, REMAINING GROUND
ATTACK VERSIONS THAT CAN BE DISTINGUISHED IN ARTICLE CARRY
NUMBERS 712, 716, AND 719. (COMMENT: IF WE PRESUME NUMBERS ARE
SEQUENTIAL AND FIRST NUMBER IS 701, THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS
TWENTY-ONE MIG-23'S AT SAN ANTONIO DE LOS BANOS SINCE CUBAN
ICAIC NEWSREEL --HAVANA 284 -- SHOWED TWO MIG-23 GROUND ATTACK
VERSIONS, PROBABLY AT SAN ANTONIO, NUMBERED 720 AND 721.
ALSO, IF IDENTIFIED GROUND ATTACK VERSIONS CARRY NUMBERS RUNNING AT
LEAST FROM 712 TO 721, AND NUMBERING IS SEQUENTIAL, THERE MAY
BE AS MANY AS TEN GROUND ATTACK VERSIONS AT SAN ANTONIO.
BY SAME TOKEN, THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS ELEVEN INTERCEPTOR
VERSIONS -- RUNNING FROM 701 TO 711.)

4. ARTICLE REFERS TO MIGH-23'S AS "VARIABLE-GEOMETRY TACTICAL
FIGHTER-BOMERS" AND MENTIONS TRAINING FOR INTERCEPTION, "PHOTO-
STRAFING), AND "PHOTO-BOMBING". (COMMENT: WE PRESUME THAT "PHOTO-
STRAFING" AND PHOTO-BOMBING" REFERS TO USE OF ELECTRONIC/RADAR
INSTRUMENTS IN EXECUTING GROUND ATTACK MISSIONS, RATHER THAN
TO TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHS.)

5. PILOTS MENTIONED IN ARTICLE ARE ALL CUBANS INCLUDING SQUADRON
COMMANDER COLONEL RAFAEL DEL PINO, GUARDS CAPTAIN MARIO SIERRA
GARCIA, GUARDS CAPTAIN MANUEL DE LOS SANTOS SOTOLO, GUARDS
LIEUTENANT FERNANDO GARCIA ROJAS, GUARDS FIRST LIEU-
TENANT PEDRO LUIS COLMENERO LAUPEDO, PLUS TECHNICIAN LIEUTE-
NANT JUAN MANUEL CAMPAI, NO SOVIETS ARE MENTIONED.

6. COPY OF VERDE OLIVO WILL BE SENT IN NEXT AVAILABLEHADUCH
(WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21) TO DIA (ATTENTION DN-2D).

LANE

END OF MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL