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ARMS DELIVERY  
NICARAGUA



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1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: ADDITIONAL SOVIET-MANUFACTURED AND SUPPLIED ARMS ARE IDENTIFIED IN NICARAGUA.

2. (S/D) REMARKS: FOUR SOVIET-MANUFACTURED AND SUPPLIED GSP HEAVY AMPHIBIOUS FERRIES HAVE ARRIVED AT RAMA PORT FACILITIES IN NICARAGUA VIA ALGERIA SINCE [REDACTED], THE GSP WERE PROBABLY OFFLOADED FROM THE ALGERIAN BECHAR-CLASS MERSHIP WHICH ARRIVED IN THE ROADSTEAD AT EL BLUFF PORT FACILITY

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[REDACTED] TWO GSP WERE ON THE QUAY AT EL BLUFF ON [REDACTED] SINCE EL BLUFF PORT FACILITY IS CLOUD COVERED TODAY, IT CANNOT BE DETERMINED IF THOSE TWO GSP ARE PART OF THE FOUR GSP AT RAMA TODAY; HOWEVER, ONLY FOUR GSP WERE ON THE MILITARY TRANSSHIPMENT QUAY AT MERS EL KEBIR NAVAL BASE AND SHIPYARD ([REDACTED], ALGERIA, PRIOR TO THE DEPARTURE OF THE BECHAR-CLASS MERSHIP. RAMA IS APPROXIMATELY 30 MILES UPRIVER FROM THE EL BLUFF AREA. THE GSP IS A SELF-PROPELLED, TRACKED HEAVY AMPHIBIOUS FERRY WHICH IS DEPLOYED IN TWO CONNECTED SETS (A RIGHT HAND AND A LEFT HAND UNIT WHICH UNFOLD), AND IS CAPABLE OF TRANSPORTING ONE TANK OR OTHER EQUIPMENT ACROSS WATERWAYS. A WATERBORNE GSP CAN TRAVEL APPROXIMATELY SEVEN KILOMETERS PER HOUR AND COULD TRANSIT THE DISTANCE BETWEEN EL BLUFF AND RAMA IN A DAY.

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(S/D) THE BECHAR-CLASS WAS PROBABLY LOADING MILITARY EQUIPMENT AT MERS AL KEBIR BETWEEN [REDACTED] AND THE SHIP DEPARTED ALGERIA BETWEEN [REDACTED] IN ADDITION TO THE FOUR GSP AT RAMA AND THE ZHUK PATROL BOAT, AT EL BLUFF ON [REDACTED], IT IS PROBABLE THAT ADDITIONAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT ON THE QUAY NEAR THE BECHAR-CLASS MERSHIP, WHILE STILL IN ALGERIA, WAS LOADED FOR TRANSSHIPMENT TO NICARAGUA.

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OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH WAS REMOVED FROM THE QUAY PRIOR TO THE DEPARTURE OF THE BECHAR-CLASS MERSHIP INCLUDED 12 BM-21 MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS AND 12 VAN/CARGO TRUCKS. NONE OF THIS EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN OBSERVED IN NICARAGUA.

3.  COORDINATES 12-08-40N 084-15-32W

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COMMENTS AND QUERIES REGARDING THIS BRIEFING BOARD MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE NPIC/PEG OPERATIONS OFFICER.

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