

(b)(3)

22



~~SECRET NOFORN~~

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

[REDACTED]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)
(S)

[REDACTED]

2 March 1996

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cuba: Stressing Restraint Toward Flotilla [REDACTED]

Cuban officials continue to emphasize their desire to avoid violence during today's flotilla, which Cuban-Americans have organized to mark Havana's shutdown of two civilian aircraft last Saturday. Publicly [REDACTED] Havana has praised steps taken by the United States to prevent the flotilla from entering Cuban territory. Foreign Minister Robaina told a news conference that Cuba had requested such measures "for a very long time." National Assembly President Alarcon said today could be "historic" if the United States averted violations of Cuban airspace.

The comments by Robaina and Alarcon reflect what Cuba may view as its sole gain from the shutdown--more vigorous US measures to control hostile actions by Cuban-Americans. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] despite an increased police presence in the city over the past three days, conditions there are generally normal.

[REDACTED] Alarcon repeated Cuba's public assurances that unilateral migration accords remained in effect and denied rumors of potential rafter movements.

Havana media report that Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro, accompanied by the commander responsible for the defense of western Cuba, recently visited Pinar del Rio Province, discussing such routine matters as the tobacco harvest and agricultural output.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Prepared by:

~~SECRET NOFORN~~

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: OCT 2001