

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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**imagery analysis report**

# **Non-Soviet Ground Force Weapon Deliveries to Somalia (S)**

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### NON-SOVIET GROUND WEAPONS DELIVERIES TO SOMALIA (S)

1. (TSR) Somalia is presently attempting to equip its military forces with military equipment from countries other than the Soviet Union. Egypt, Italy, Romania, China, Kuwait, and Pakistan have all shipped arms to Somalia. This report will discuss deliveries of weapons from these countries to Somalia that were identified on ground photography and overhead imagery between [redacted] [redacted] No new arms deliveries have been observed on imagery acquired since December 1979.

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2. (S) Prior to November 1977, Somalia relied almost exclusively on one country, the Soviet Union, for most of its military equipment. The split with the Soviet Union, resulting in the expulsion of Soviet advisors from Somalia in November 1977, left Somalia without a major supplier of military arms and equipment. This situation was worsened by Somalia's need to replace weapons and equipment lost in the 1977-1978 war with Ethiopia over the disputed Ogaden Region.

3. (TSR) Since December 1978, six different ground force weapon systems have been newly identified in Somalia. These weapons, which range from medium tanks to light anti-aircraft artillery, have been imported from at least six different countries. This reflects efforts by Somalia to reequip its military forces with new weapons from non-Soviet sources. To date, no deliveries of non-Soviet equipment to either the Somali Air Force or Navy have been observed.

4. (TSR) The most recent arms delivery to Somalia took place in late 1979 and involved the British Centurion tank. On [redacted] 32 Centurions were identified at Mogadiscio Barracks and Motor Pool ([redacted] Figures 1 and 2). This was the initial identification of this piece of equipment in Somalia. These Centurions were reportedly delivered from Kuwait.<sup>1</sup>

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5. (TSR) In addition to the Centurions, Somalia also obtained at least 44 additional Soviet-built T-54 medium tanks during October and November 1979 from Egypt.<sup>1</sup> An initial shipment of 22 T-54 tanks was identified on overhead imagery of Mogadiscio Barracks and Motor Pool on [redacted] [redacted] This equipment was observed on both overhead imagery and on ground photography of the 21 October National Day Parade in Mogadiscio. A second T-54 tank shipment to Somalia arrived at the port of Berbera ([redacted] in early November when an additional 22 T-54 tanks were observed. Figure 3 shows transshipment activity at Berbera on [redacted] as this equipment was being moved by road out of the port area. The present location of these tanks is not known.

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6. (TSR) Italian Fiat armored vehicles (Figure 4) appear to be the items that have been exported to Somalia in the greatest numbers since the break with the Soviet Union. Both the Fiat 6616 armored scout car (Figure 5) and the Fiat 6614 armored personnel carrier (APC; Figure 6) have been observed on overhead imagery in Somalia. Eight Fiat armored vehicles were initially identified at Mogadiscio Barracks and Motor Pool on [redacted] This probably represented an initial delivery of vehicles for test and evaluation purposes. Overhead imagery revealed that the majority of Somalia's present inventory of Fiats was delivered to Mogadiscio during March 1979, with additional vehicles being delivered to Berbera and then being moved by road to Hargeisa during April and May 1979. While it is difficult to determine the exact number of Fiat armored vehicles that have been delivered, the presence of at least 100 can be confirmed through an analysis of overhead imagery.

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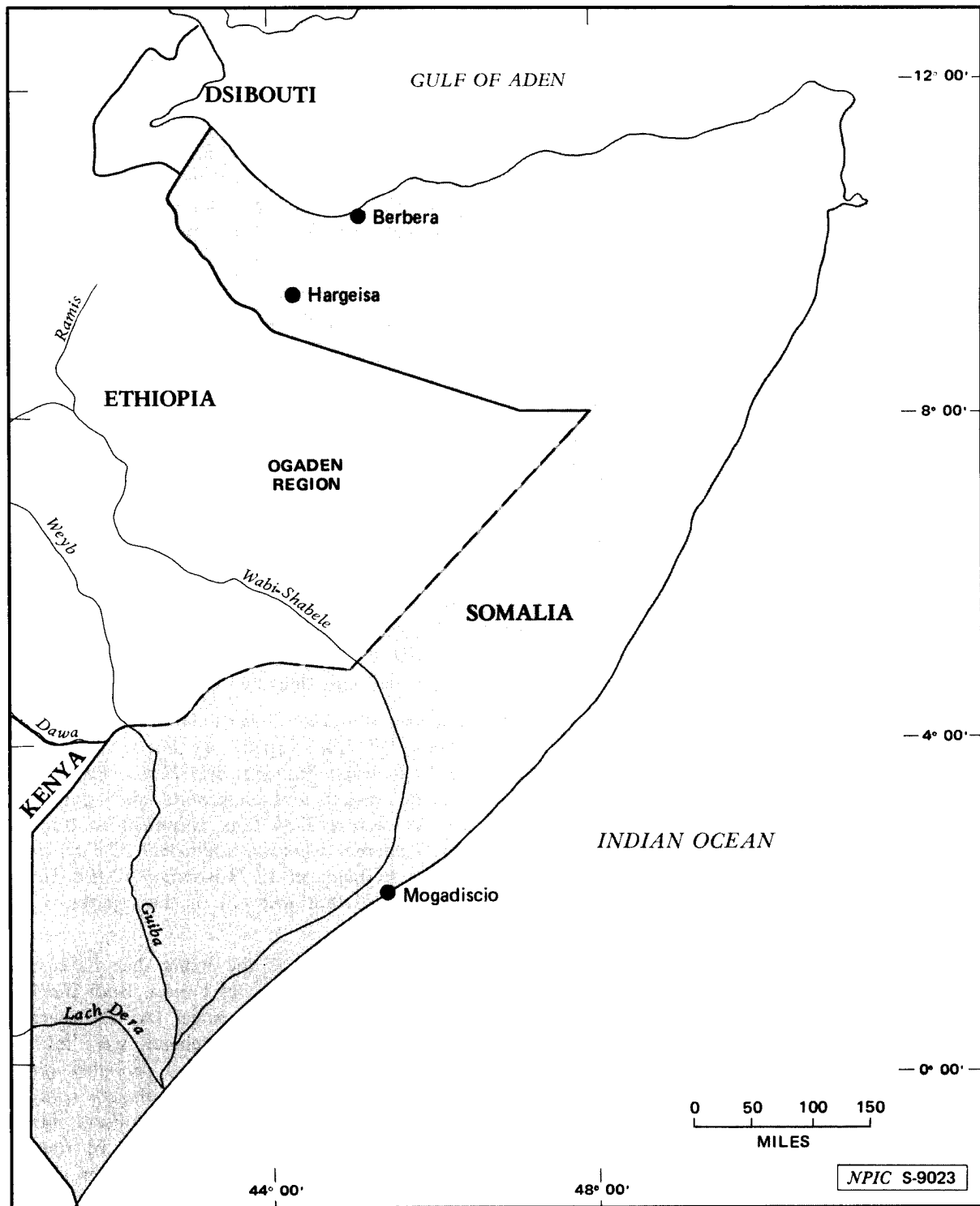


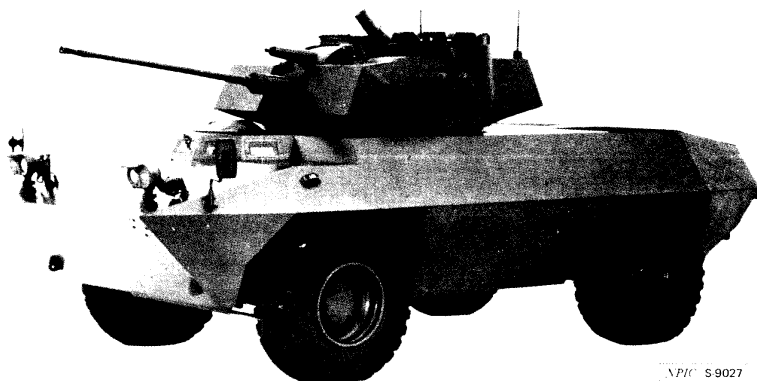
FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF AREAS IN SOMALIA WHERE NON-SOVIET GROUND WEAPONS DELIVERIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED

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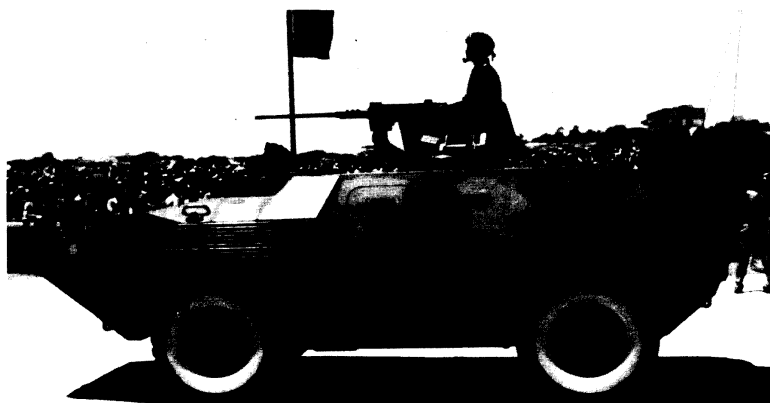
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FIGURE 5. FIAT 6616 ARMORED SCOUT CAR. Photograph from Fiat advertisement in NATO's Fifteen Nations, issue of Dec 1975 - Jan 1976 (UNCLASSIFIED).



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FIGURE 6. FIAT 6614 APC. 21 OCTOBER PARADE, MOGADISCIO

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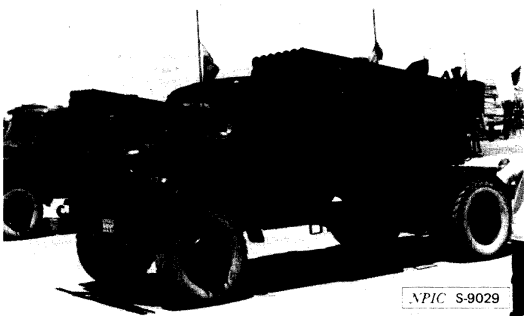


FIGURE 7. ROMANIAN 122MM MRL M-1974, 21 OCTOBER PARADE, MOGADISCIO



FIGURE 9. US M-38A1C UTILITY TRUCK WITH 106MM RECOILLESS RIFLE, 21 OCTOBER PARADE, MOGADISCIO



FIGURE 8. CHINESE TWIN-BARREL 37MM AA GUN, 21 OCTOBER PARADE, MOGADISCIO

7. ( ) Three additional ground force weapons were observed for the first time in Somalia on both overhead imagery and ground photography of the 21 October 1979 parade in Mogadiscio. These included the Romanian 122mm multiple rocket launcher (MRL) M-1974 (Figure 7), the Chinese twin-barrel 37mm antiaircraft (AA) gun (Figure 8), and the US M-38A1C utility truck mounting the 106mm recoilless rifle (Figure 9). The US M-38A1C utility truck with a 106mm recoilless rifle has previously been identified in Pakistan, and recent collateral information stated that Pakistan has supplied the 106mm recoilless rifle to Somalia.<sup>2</sup> The present numbers and deployment of these weapons within Somalia are not known.

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(TSR) All available, applicable KEYHOLE imagery acquired from ( ) was used in the preparation of this report.

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Small-Format Imagery

| Figure No | Agency | Accession No | Date      | Classification |
|-----------|--------|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| 6-9       | DIA    | 6888 0039 79 | 21 Oct 79 | UNCLASSIFIED   |

DOCUMENTS

1. DIA. DIADIN 352-7A, *Somalia: Equipment Arrival (U)*, 18 Dec 79 (CONFIDENTIAL)
2. DIA. DDB-268 0-104-79, *Military Intelligence Summary, Volume IV, Africa South of The Sahara (U)*, Aug 79 (SECRET ( ))

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to ( ) Third World Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, ( )

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