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OP INMED
DE WTE #1045 0611141
O 011400Z MAR 76
FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 07//

TO COVEY FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY CONTAINS CODEWORD

VIA BLACK PATCH WH60298

TOHAK 07

MARCH 1, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS

CUBAN SUPPORT FOR THE POLISARIO IN THE SAHARA:

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APPROXIMATELY 200 CUBANS ARE IN THE SPANISH SAHARA ADVISING GUERRILLAS OF THE POLISARIO MOVEMENT. THE CUBANS REPORTEDLY HAVE NOT ENGAGED IN COMBAT.

25X1

CUBAN CARGO SHIPS HAVE USED THE CANARY ISLANDS AS A TRANSFER POINT FROM WHICH CUBAN FISHING VESSELS THEN REDELIVER ARMS, AMMUNITION, AND PERSONNEL TO THE SPANISH SAHARA. IN FACT, CUBAN CARGO AND FISHING BOATS HAVE BEEN DETECTED OPERATING IN THE AREA, AND CUBAN OFFICIALS HAVE TRAVELED TO THE CANARIES ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS RECENTLY. THIS IS THE LATEST INDICATION THAT CUBA IS SUPPORTING THE POLISARIO MOVEMENT WITH PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT. EARLIER REPORTS INDICATED THAT A SMALL NUMBER OF CUBANS -- FEWER THAN 200 -- WERE ASSISTING THE POLISARIO GROUP, ALTHOUGH ALL BUT A DOZEN OR SO WERE BELIEVED TO BE OPERATING AT BASES IN ALGERIA.

25X1

RHODESIA INSURGENCY INCREASES: DIA BELIEVES THAT PRIME MINISTER SMITH MAY BE CONSIDERING PREEMPTIVE ATTACKS ON MOZAMBIQUE AS THE LEVEL OF INSURGENT ACTIVITY CONDUCTED FROM THAT COUNTRY INCREASES. MOZAMBIQUE HAS PROVIDED SAFE HAVENS AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS WHO HAVE CONDUCTED INCREASING NUMBERS OF HARASSING ATTACKS IN RHODESIA. SO FAR,

NSA and DIA Reviews Completed.

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

SEC FLE

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RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE INSURGENCY. HOWEVER, THEY WILL HAVE TO BE SPREAD THINLY ALONG THE 500-MILE MOZAMBIQUE BORDER TO COMBAT THE INCREASING GUERRILLA ACTIVITY, AND THIS WILL SEVERELY REDUCE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS. FOR THIS REASON, SMITH IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE EXPANDED TEMPO OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES ALONG THE BORDER.

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