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 FM USINT HAVANA
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5670
 INFO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 426
 RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
 BT
 C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1308

JS

EO 12065: GDS 2/26/85 (LANE, LYLE F.) OR-M
 TAGS: MILI CU UR
 SUBJ: (C) MIG-23'S IN CUBA

REF: HAVANA 1052

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. DURING RECEPTION AT SOVIET EMBASSY FEBRUARY 23, USINT CHIEF ASKED POLITICAL COUNSELOR DIMITRIY V. KUPRIANOV ABOUT PICTURES OF MIG-23'S WHICH RECENTLY APPEARED IN THE CUBAN ARMED FORCES OFFICIAL MAGAZINE VERDE OLIVO (REFTEL), NOTING THAT IF NUMBERING OF CIRRAFT IS SEQUENTIAL THERE APPEAR TO BE AT LEAST 21 MIG-23'S IN CUBA AND THERE ARE OTHER INTERESTING QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR CHARACTERISTICS. KUPRIANOV FIRST RESPONDED THAT THE NUMBERS WERE NOT SIGNIFICANT AND (MORE OBSCURELY) THAT THE PHOTOGRAPHS CERTAINLY SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TO REPRESENT A "CUBAN MILITARY PARADE". HE THEN VOLUNTEERED THAT THE AUTHORIATIVE WORD ON THE MIG-23'S IS STILL THAT GIVEN PREVIOUSLY TO SECRETARY VANCE AND AMBASSADOR TOON.

3. COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT THE OBSCURE REFERENCE TO

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A "MILITARY PARADE" WAS INTENDED TO SUGGEST THAT NO
MORE SHOULD BE READ INTO THE PHOTOGRAPHS THAN SHOWS ON
THE SURFACE.
LANE

END OF MESSAGE

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