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Approved For Release 2003/10/22 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000500240001-1

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Soviet Military Deliveries to Cuba in 1974

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NSA review completed.

ER RP 75-4

January 1975

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Soviet Military Deliveries
To Cuba in 1974

SUMMARY

1. The USSR maintained a moderate level of arms deliveries to Cuba in 1974. Seven Soviet ships delivered some 11,000 metric tons of military equipment, somewhat below last year's shipments, but comparable with the annual range of 10,000 to 12,500 tons noted since 1968. The level of deliveries and the types of equipment supplied suggest that the Soviets continue to be committed only to a minimum replacement program.

2. No new weapons systems are known to have been introduced in 1974, but the variety of equipment supplied was greater than in past years. Aircraft deliveries included additional MIG-21J fighters and possibly a newer version of the MIG-21 trainer. Other shipments included T-34 tanks, an Osa-class guided missile patrol boat, and the first identified delivery of SS-N-2 missiles in more than three years.

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DISCUSSION

3. Soviet military shipments to Cuba in 1974 began in January with the arrival of the Dmitriy Gulya and ended on 22 November with one of the USSR's most frequent arms carriers, the Leninskiy Komsomol. Five other Soviet ships transported arms to Cuba during the year (see the Appendix).

4. The 11,000 tons delivered was 1,600 tons below 1973 but is comparable with the general level of deliveries in each of the past five years (see the table). Six of the seven ships carried exclusively military cargoes.

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As in the past, seaborne shipments of military equipment to Cuba originated solely in the USSR. No major arms deliveries are known to have arrived in Cuba by air since the 1962 missile crisis, although a small amount of specialty spare parts is probably carried on Aeroflot's scheduled services between Moscow and Havana.

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Soviet Seaborne Military Deliveries
To Cuba

	Number of Ships	Thousand Metric Tons
1962 ¹	125	250.0 ²
1963	10	38.7
1964	7	17.5
1965	5	10.8
1966	10	21.4
1967	20	41.1
1968	3	6.2
1969	7	11.5
1970	8	11.3
1971	9	12.1
1972	7	10.0
1973	5	12.6
1974	7	11.0

1. Mid-July to mid-October.
2. Estimated.

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Composition of Shipments

8. Continuing past patterns of Soviet military deliveries, the bulk of military deliveries in 1974 consisted of small arms, ammunition, communications equipment, and assorted military trucks and jeeps. In addition to these items, Cuba received a wide variety of other items such as aircraft, patrol boats, SS-N-2 missiles, SA-2 missile systems equipment, and T-34 tanks.

Aircraft

9. Fourteen aircraft were delivered to Cuba in 1974, of which nine were additional MIG-21J fighters and five are thought to be a newer version of the MIG-21 trainer.

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[redacted] These deliveries, [redacted] bring Cuba's current inventory of MIG-21s to 87, including 23 of the J models.

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Patrol Boats

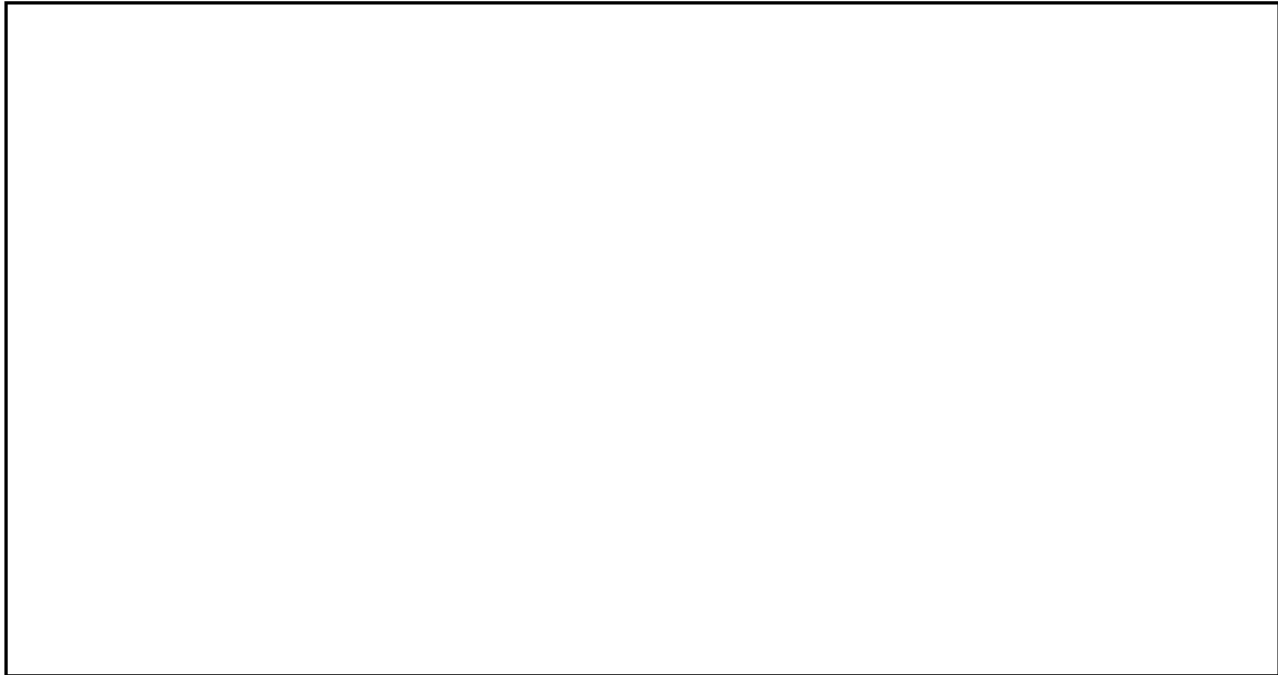
11. One Osa-class guided missile patrol boat was delivered to Cuba in January 1974, bringing the Cuban Navy's inventory of patrol craft using the SS-N-2 missile to 18 Komars and 5 Osas. It is suspected that an unspecified number of Komars -- perhaps as many as four -- have been cannibalized. All these patrol craft are stationed at

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the Cabanas naval facility some 40 miles west of Havana. Finally, a small Zhuk-class patrol craft arrived in mid-1974 [redacted] the second in Cuba's inventory.

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Outlook

14. Although additional fighter aircraft and Osa deliveries may occur later in the year, we expect no appreciable change in the overall level of military shipments in 1975. There is no evidence of a shift in Soviet policy which, since 1968, has emphasized replacement of expended munitions, destroyed or obsolescent aircraft, and worn out equipment in the Cuban armed forces.

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