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TITLE: SUBJ: INCREASING INDISCIPLINE WITHIN THE LIBERIAN MILITARY

TEXT:

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~-WNINTEL- [redacted]

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DIST: 20 JUNE 1990

COUNTRY: LIBERIA

SUBJ: INCREASING INDISCIPLINE WITHIN THE LIBERIAN MILITARY

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TEXT: 1. ACCORDING TO A SENIOR LIBERIAN MILITARY OFFICIAL, THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN ACTS OF INDISCIPLINE BY ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA (AFL) SOLDIERS DURING THE PAST MONTH. AFL SOLDIERS HAVE EITHER ROBBED, SHOT, OR HARASSED THE LOCAL CIVILIAN POPULATION. AFL SOLDIERS HAVE ALSO BEEN INVOLVED IN SHOOTING FELLOW SOLDIERS. THE DEATHS OF BOTH SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN MINIMIZED, BUT THE SHOOTINGS AND THE IRRESPONSIBLE DISCHARGE OF WEAPONS AT NIGHT HAVE OCCURRED ALMOST DAILY DURING THE PAST MONTH. THE AFL LEADERSHIP IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE JOINT SECURITY COMMISSION HAS TAKEN STEPS TO CONTROL THE UNDISCIPLINED SOLDIERS, BUT THEY HAVE HAD ONLY MODERATE SUCCESS TO DATE. ([redacted] COMMENT: MOST CIVILIANS ATTEMPT TO BE OFF THE STREETS AND AT HOME BEFORE 1900 HOURS FOR FEAR OF BEING ROBBED OR KILLED BY THE SOLDIERS. THE CIVILIANS SEEM TO HAVE LESS OF A FEAR OF THE REBELS THAN THE AFL SOLDIERS.)

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2. THE OFFICIAL FURTHER NOTED THAT THERE WERE TOO MANY SOLDIERS WITH WEAPONS ON THE STREETS OF MONROVIA. THE AFL HAS SUCCEEDED IN CONFISCATING A NUMBER OF WEAPONS FROM OFFDUTY SOLDIERS, BUT HAS FAILED TO METE OUT DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST MANY OF THEM-- ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE KRAHN ETHNIC GROUP. THE OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT MANY OF THE UNDISCIPLINED SOLDIERS WERE NEW RECRUITS AND KRAHN, AND BASED ON THEIR ATTITUDE THEY DID NOT HAVE A GREAT AFFINITY FOR MONROVIA OR THE OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS. ([redacted] COMMENT: THE KRAHNS REALIZE THAT THEY HAVE CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY FOR NOW AND CAN DO WHATEVER THEY PLEASE WITHOUT FEAR OF RETRIBUTION. THE KRAHN SOLDIERS HAVE OPENLY STATED THAT THEY WILL DESTROY MONROVIA IF THEY ARE ATTACKED BY THE REBELS.)

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3. IN AN EFFORT TO STEM THE INCREASING INDISCIPLINE AMONG AFL SOLDIERS, MILITARY POLICEMEN HAVE BEGUN ARRESTING THE SOLDIERS FOR MISCONDUCT AND TAKING THEM TO THE BARCLAY TRAINING CENTER POST

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STOCKADE; HOWEVER, THE KRAHN SOLDIERS ARE NORMALLY CONFINED FOR A MAXIMUM OF ONE WEEK TO TEN DAYS AND RELEASED. SOLDIERS FROM DIFFERENT ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS ARE DEALT WITH MORE HARSHLY AND SWIFTLY. (SOURCE COMMENT: A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE THE INJUSTICES WITHIN THE MILITARY SYSTEM CAN BE SEEN IN SEVERAL CASES. MAJOR PRINCE ((JOHNSON)) AND COLONEL ((BAHN)) WERE IMPRISONED EVEN THOUGH NEITHER HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF COMMITTING A CRIME. JOHNSON WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED AND WENT INTO HIDING. BAHN REMAINS IN PRISON AND MUST SERVE OUT A FOUR MONTH TERM. ON THE OTHER HAND, A SPECIAL ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT SOLDIER FOUND GUILTY OF SHOOTING AN AMERICAN WHO LATER DIED, IS STILL WAITING TO BE EXECUTED ON ORDERS REPORTEDLY BY PRESIDENT DOE. HOWEVER, THE EXECUTION OF THE SOLDIER WILL MOST LIKELY NEVER BE CARRIED OUT.) ([REDACTED] COMMENT: OTHER REPORTING INDICATES THAT BAHN WAS ACCUSED OF PROVIDING WEAPONS TO THE REBELS AND WILL BE IMPRISONED INDEFINITELY. ALTHOUGH DOE REMARKED THAT THE SATU SOLDIER SHOULD BE EXECUTED, THERE IS NO INFORMATION TO INDICATE THAT HE ORDERED THE EXECUTION TO BE CARRIED OUT.)

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4. THE OFFICIAL PLACED MUCH OF THE BLAME FOR THE LACK OF AFL DISCIPLINE ON THE SENIOR MILITARY LEADERSHIP. THE OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE MAJOR GENERAL BOIMA ((BARCLAY)) WILL NOT TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST THE SOLDIERS PARTIALLY BECAUSE HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO BE IN HIS POSITION FOR VERY LONG. THE OFFICIAL OPINED THAT LIBERIAN PRESIDENT SAMUEL K. DOE IS EXPECTED TO MAKE SOME MINISTERIAL CHANGES IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. THE OFFICIAL ALSO INDICATED THAT CHIEF OF STAFF LIEUTENANT GENERAL HENRY ((DUBAR)) WILL ONLY TAKE MINOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST KRAHN SOLDIERS WHICH USUALLY ENTAILS A REPRIMAND OR DETENTION IN THE POST STOCKADE FOR SEVERAL DAYS. THE COMMANDER OF THE EXECUTIVE MANSION GUARD BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES ((JULUE)) WILL NOT REACT TO KRAHN INDISCIPLINE UNLESS THE SOLDIER REFUSES TO OBEY A DIRECT ORDER FROM HIM. OTHER SENIOR STAFF OFFICERS DO NOT BELIEVE THEY HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO HAND OUT PUNISHMENT TO THE SOLDIERS.

5. THE OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT PART OF THE BLAME FOR THE AFL INDISCIPLINE CAN ALSO BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE INDUCTION OF NEW RECRUITS INTO THE MILITARY. DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS COLONEL D. Z. ((BROWN)) TRAINED OVER THREE THOUSAND NEW RECRUITS AT THE TUBMAN MILITARY ACADEMY AT CAMP TODEE (06 33N 010 32W). 800 RECRUITS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE 1ST BATTALION AT CAMP SCHIEFFLIN (06 13N 10 32W); EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT WERE KRAHN. 763 RECRUITS WERE ASSIGNED TO THE 6TH BATTALION AT BOMI HILLS (06 52N 10 49W); EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT THIS GROUP WAS ALSO KRAHN. APPROXIMATELY 1500 RECRUITS REMAINED AT THE 2ND BATTALION AT CAMP TODEE. THIS GROUP WAS COMPRISED OF A MIXTURE OF ETHNIC GROUPS. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL ANOTHER 3,000 KRAHNS WERE REPORTEDLY BEING TRAINED IN THE TOWNS OF TUZON AND ZWEDRU IN GRAND GEDEH COUNTY. THIS WAS IN ADDITION TO THE 2,000 SOLDIERS ALREADY POSTED THERE. ([REDACTED] COMMENT: THE SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF SOLDIERS IN GRAND GEDEH SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT IF DOE IS FORCED OUT OF POWER, HE WILL RETREAT TO GRAND GEDEH AND CONDUCT HIS OWN INSURGENCY AGAINST THE NEW LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT.)

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WARNING: REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~-WARNING NOTICE- [redacted]

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[redacted] DISSEMINATION AND EXTRACTION
OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR.

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