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TITLE: SUBJ: MORALE AMONG SENIOR OFFICERS IN THE ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA

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: 26 MAY 1990

COUNTRY: LIBERIA

SUBJ: MORALE AMONG SENIOR OFFICERS IN THE ARMED FORCES
OF LIBERIA

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TEXT: 1. ACCORDING TO A SENIOR ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA (AFL) MILITARY OFFICIAL, AS OF 23 MAY 1990 MORALE AMONG SENIOR AFL OFFICERS HAS CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE. THE NON-KRAHN SENIOR OFFICERS HAVE BEEN MOST AFFECTED WITH MORALE PLUMMETTING EVEN FURTHER FOLLOWING THE RECENT KILLINGS OF SOLDIERS FROM THE GIO AND MANO ETHNIC GROUPS. DURING 22 TO 23 MAY AT LEAST TEN AFL SOLDIERS, THE MAJORITY FROM THE 72ND MILITARY CAMP IN MONROVIA, WERE KILLED AND THEIR BODIES BADLY MUTILATED. SOLDIERS FROM THE OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS HAVE BEGUN TO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR OWN SECURITY AND EXPRESSED A FEAR THAT THE KRAHNS WILL MOVE TO ELIMINATE THEM NEXT. ([redacted] COMMENT: THERE HAVE BEEN UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS THAT DURING THE EVENING OF 22 MAY EXECUTIVE MANSION GUARD (EMG) SOLDIERS EXECUTED A LARGE NUMBER OF AFL SOLDIERS OF GIO AND MANO ETHNIC BACKGROUND. THESE SOLDIERS WERE REPORTEDLY UNDER DETENTION AT THE BARCLAY TRAINING CENTER STOCKADE.) (FIELD COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN NO CONFIRMATION OF A LARGE NUMBER OF GIO AND MANO SOLDIERS HAVING BEEN KILLED; HOWEVER, THE TENSION WITHIN THE MILITARY HAS BEEN EXACERBATED BY THE BELIEF THAT SUCH AN EVENT DID INDEED OCCUR. SEVERAL SENIOR LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE REMARKED THAT IF THE REPORT IS TRUE, THEY PLAN TO RESIGN FROM THE GOVERNMENT FOR MORAL REASONS.)

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2. SENIOR AFL OFFICERS ALSO HAVE BECOME DISILLUSIONED WITH PRESIDENT SAMUEL K. ((DOE'S)) RESPONSE TO THE REBEL INSURGENCY. MOST KRAHN ADVISORS CLOSE TO DOE DISTRUST THE NON-KRAHN OFFICERS AND PURPOSELY LEAVE THEM OUT OF THE PLANNING AGAINST THE INSURGENTS. THE CURRENT GROUP CLOSE TO DOE IS COMPRISED OF THE COMMANDER OF THE EMG BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES ((JULUE)), THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES IN BUCHANAN LIEUTENANT COLONEL SAMUEL ((APPLETON)), AND FORMER COMMANDER OF THE FIFTH BATTALION COLONEL DAVID Q. ((NIMELY)). THIS GROUP MEETS REGULARLY WITH DOE TO DISCUSS THE PLANNING AND

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IMPLEMENTATION OF MILITARY STRATEGY. ALTHOUGH CHIEF OF STAFF LIEUTENANT GENERAL HENRY ((DUBAR)) HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR DIRECTING THE EFFORT AGAINST THE INSURGENCY GROUP, THE KRAHN GROUP DOES NOT LISTEN TO DUBAR AND DISMISSES MOST RECOMMENDATIONS COMING FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (MOD).

3. AS A RESULT OF ETHNIC ALLEGIANCES, THERE ARE TWO CHAINS OF COMMAND WITHIN THE MILITARY. THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLE OCCURRED DURING THE PLANNING TO RETAKE BUCHANAN. THE MOD SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL TO DOE WHEREBY A PLATOON OF AFL SOLDIERS WOULD TRAVEL A DIRT ROAD NORTHWEST OF THE ST. JOHN BRIDGE FOR FIVE TO SIX MILES TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE LIBERIAN AGRICULTURE COMPANY (LAC) ROAD. AFTER REACHING THIS POINT SEVERAL SOLDIERS WOULD SET UP AN AMBUSH AGAINST THE REBELS AND THE OTHERS WOULD PROCEED TOWARDS BUCHANAN. AT THE SAME TIME, THE AFL WOULD LAUNCH AN ATTACK ON BUCHANAN FROM THE ST. JOHN'S BRIDGE UTILIZING ARTILLERY. JULUE DID NOT LIKE THE PROPOSAL, BUT PROMISED TO TAKE IT UNDER CONSIDERATION. ([redacted] COMMENT: THE PLAN WAS SUBMITTED SEVERAL DAYS AGO AND ALREADY IS BEHIND SCHEDULE TO BE EFFECTIVE. THUS, THE MOD DOES NOT BELIEVE THE PLAN WILL BE PUT INTO EFFECT.)

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4. TO DATE, THERE HAS BEEN NO EVIDENCE OF SENIOR OFFICERS PLANNING A COUP OR ATTEMPTING TO REMOVE DOE THROUGH ANY OTHER MEANS. FOR HIS PROTECTION DOE HAS MANY WEAPONS LOCATED IN ZWEDRU WITH THE 4TH BATTALION AND AT THE EXECUTIVE MANSION. MOST SENIOR AFL OFFICERS BELIEVE DOE SHOULD STEP DOWN AND TURN THE GOVERNMENT OVER TO A TRANSITIONAL TEAM. HOWEVER, DOE SEEMS DETERMINED TO FIGHT AGAINST THE INSURGENCY UNTIL THE END. MANY SENIOR OFFICERS DO NOT BELIEVE THE AFL CAN WIN MILITARILY AND EXPECT DOE TO DEPART LIBERIA AT THE LAST MINUTE.

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