

~~SECRET~~ [redacted]

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Classified By: Unspecified
Derived From: Unspecified
Declassify On: MR, 20180806

~~(S)~~ [redacted] **SUBJ: [redacted] MOVEMENT OF ARMS AND MATERIEL THROUGH ETHIOPIA FOR SOMALI WARLORDS, PARTICULARLY MOHAMED FARAH HASSAN "AIDEED"** (b)(1) (b)(3)
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Identifiers:

[redacted]

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Dates:

Date Published: 06-Aug-1993 17:25:00
Date Received: 06-Aug-1993 17:27:42

Coverage:

CIA Country Code: SOM
Region: AFRICA, COUNTRY: ETHIOPIA

Publisher:

#1
Agency Acronym: CIA
Office Name: CIA

#2
Agency Acronym: CIA
Office Name: NCS

Attachments:

38775818.orig

Warnings:

~~(S)~~ [redacted] WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASS ~~S E C R E T~~--WNINTEL--NOFORN: [redacted]
DIST: 06 AUGUST 1993 COUNTRY: ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA SUBJ: [redacted]
[redacted] MOVEMENT OF ARMS AND MATERIEL THROUGH ETHIOPIA FOR SOMALI WARLORDS, PARTICULARLY MOHAMED FARAH HASSAN "AIDEED" DOI:

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[redacted] SOURCE: [redacted]
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SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA DOES NOT CONDONE OR FACILITATE ARMS FLOWS TO SOMALI WARLORDS, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT A SMALL AMOUNT OF ARMS FLOW THROUGHOUT THE 1,000-MILE ETHIOPIAN-SOMALIAN BORDER AREA. THIS MOVEMENT IS PROBABLY NOT SIGNIFICANT. THE RADICAL WINGS OF THE OLF, IFLO AND ONLF COULD HAVE SOME AFFINITY FOR THE ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST CAUSE; HOWEVER, THEY DO NOT HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO MOVE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF ARMS TO AIDEED. IT IS PROBABLE THAT SOME OF AIDEED'S ARMS CACHES ARE LOCATED NEAR THE ETHIOPIAN BORDER GIVEN THAT AIDEED'S HOME TRIBAL REGION IS IN CENTRAL SOMALIA [redacted]

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PASS: [redacted]

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WNINTEL--NOFORN-[redacted]

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TEXT: 1. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTIONS OF WEAPONS POSSIBLY BEING PROVIDED BY ETHIOPIAN OPPOSITION GROUPS TO SOMALI WARLORD GROUPS, PARTICULARLY ((MOHAMMED)) FARAH HASSAN "AIDEED," THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT, AS OF EARLY AUGUST 1993, THAT SOME ARMS FLOW IN BOTH DIRECTIONS ACROSS THE LARGELY UNPOLICED 1,000 MILE ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA BORDER.

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[redacted] IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MONITOR THE MOVEMENTS OF THE NOMADIC SOMALIS IN THIS REGION, WHO DO NOT RECOGNIZE BORDERS AND HAVE ALWAYS MOVED ACROSS THEM RELATIVELY FREELY. THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA (TGE) DOES NOT CONDONE OR IN ANY WAY FACILITATE ANY ARMS FLOWS TO SOMALI WARLORDS, PARTICULARLY RENEGADE FACTION LEADER MOHAMED FARAH HASSAN "AIDEED," AND WILL ATTEMPT TO INTERDICT ANY ARMS FLOWS THAT COME TO ITS ATTENTION.

2. BASED ON CURRENT INFORMATION, IT APPEARS THAT THE CROSS-BORDER INFLUX OF ARMS IS PROBABLY NOT SIGNIFICANT. AIDEED AND HIS FELLOW WARLORDS HAVE HAD YEARS TO STOCKPILE ARMS INSIDE SOMALIA, AND ARMS MAY MOVE JUST AS FREQUENTLY WESTWARD INTO ETHIOPIA AS THEY DO EASTWARD INTO SOMALIA. THE TGE DOES NOT EXERCISE WHAT A WESTERN

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OBSERVER WOULD CONSIDER EFFECTIVE "CONTROL" IN THE OGADEN. ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC FRONT (EPRDF) TROOPS, ALMOST ALL TIGRAY CHRISTIANS FROM THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS, ARE SCATTERED IN LONELY GARRISONS, REMAIN ISOLATED FROM THE LOCAL POPULACE, AND GENERALLY FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE TRAVELLING THROUGH THE AREA. BY AND LARGE, ETHIOPIAN OGADENIS ARE INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THEIR SOMALI BROTHERS ACROSS THE BORDER AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO FEEL AND ACT ROUGHLY THE SAME WAY. THE FREE FLOW OF SMALL ARMS, PEOPLE, AND MATERIEL FROM ONE SIDE OF THE BORDER TO THE OTHER IS A DAILY PROCESS.

3. THE OROMO LIBERATION FRONT (OLF) COULD VERY WELL BE INVOLVED IN MOVING SOME ARMS TO AIDEED, BUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF THIS APPEARS TO BE REMOTE SINCE THE OLF DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO BE A SIGNIFICANT ARMS SUPPLIER. THE OLF HAS ARMS CACHES LEFT OVER FROM THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE DERGUE, BUT THESE CACHES ARE PROBABLY NOT VERY LARGE OR NUMEROUS. ADDITIONALLY, THEY ARE NOT RECEIVING NOTABLE INFLEXES OF NEW ARMS. THE OLF MILITARY WING INSIDE ETHIOPIA IS POORLY LED, HORRIBLY DISORGANIZED, AND GENERALLY INEFFECTIVE, DESPITE ITS WILDLY EXAGGERATED CLAIMS OF BATTLEFIELD SUCCESS.

4. IT IS PLAUSIBLE THAT THE ETHIOPIAN ISLAMIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF OROMIA (IFLO) COULD BE INVOLVED IN FUNNELING WEAPONS TO AIDEED, PERHAPS IN LOOSE CONJUNCTION WITH THE OLF, ALTHOUGH THE AMOUNTS FUNNELED WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE SIGNIFICANT. THE IFLO HAS BEEN A PARTICULARLY ACTIVIST GROUP OF LATE AND DOES HAVE ESTABLISHED SMUGGLING ROUTES BY WHICH IT IS RECEIVING SUPPORT, SOMETIMES INCLUDING WEAPONS, FROM ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST GROUPS BASED PRIMARILY IN SOMALIA SUCH AS THE "AL-ITIHAAD AL-ISLAMI."

5. FREQUENT CONFUSION IS MADE BETWEEN THE OLF, THE IFLO, AND THE OGADENI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT ONLF; ALL THREE GROUPS ARE INVOLVED, ALBEIT IN VARYING DEGREES, IN ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITY IN AND AROUND THE OGADEN. ALL THREE GROUPS HAVE RADICAL WINGS THAT COULD HAVE SOME AFFINITY FOR THE ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST CAUSE. NONE OF THE THREE, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO MOVE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF ARMS TO AIDEED AND IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT ANY OF THE GROUPS WOULD CONSIDER IT A PRIORITY TO DO SO AT THIS TIME.

6. IT WOULD BE LOGICAL TO ASSUME THAT SOME OF AIDEED'S ARMS CACHES ARE NEAR THE ETHIOPIAN BORDER GIVEN THAT AIDEED'S HOME TRIBAL REGION IS THAT AREA OF CENTRAL SOMALIA. CURRENT PERCEPTIONS INDICATE THAT AIDEED HAS A RESPECTABLE BASE OF SUPPORT/POPULARITY AMONG OGADENIS, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT UNOSOM II IS VIEWED MORE AND MORE AS CARRYING OUT A CAMPAIGN OF MILITARY AGGRESSION AGAINST THE SOMALI PEOPLE. WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE OGADEN, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ETHIOPIAN OGADENIS WOULD CONSTITUTE FAIRLY FERTILE GROUND FOR AIDEED TO GARNER SUPPORTERS.

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ACQ: [redacted]

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DISSEM: [redacted]

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WARNING: REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WARNING NOTICE--INTELLIGENCE
SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED--NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS--NOT

[redacted]

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DECL: [redacted] ALL PORTIONS
CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.>

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ORIG/REL [redacted]

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END OF MESSAGE SECRET

Collection:

CC

Description:

(S) [redacted] None

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Language:

eng

Precedence:

P

Source:

[redacted]

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Subject:

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