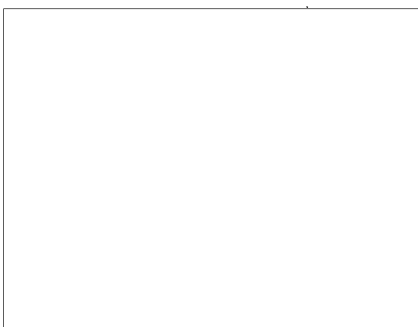


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TO: IMMEDIATE NIMA NAVY YARD WASHINGTON DC, DIRNSA,
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COMSIXTHFLT, CTF SIX ONE, CTF SIX TWO,
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SERIAL:

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--NOFORN

DIST: 16 MAY 1997

COUNTRY: ZAIRE/FRANCE/SOUTH AFRICA

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON SENIOR ZAIRIAN MILITARY AND POLITICAL
OFFICIALS' EFFORTS TO SECURE THE DEPARTURE OF MOBUTU
FROM ZAIRE AND ENSURE A PEACEFUL ENTRY OF REBEL FORCES
INTO KINSHASA

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THIS REPORT IS CLASSIFIED SECRET US ONLY IN ITS ENTIRETY.

SUMMARY: NONE

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TEXT: 1. ON 15 MAY 1997, ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT ((MOBUTU)) SESE SEKO MET AT HIS CAMP TSHATSHI RESIDENCE IN KINSHASA WITH SENIOR ADVISORS WHO SOUGHT FOR THREE HOURS, BEGINNING AT 2300 HOURS, TO CONVINCE HIM TO RECONSIDER HIS DECISION TO STAY IN ZAIRE AND INSTEAD LEAVE THE COUNTRY FOR HIS PERSONAL SECURITY. THE SENIOR OFFICIALS INCLUDED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY (DGSN), ((TSHIMBOMBO)) MUKUNA, MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES (FAZ), GENERAL DONATIEN ((MAHELE)) LIEKO BOKUNGU, AND THE COMMANDER OF THE SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL DIVISION (DSP), GENERAL ((NZIMBI)) NGBALE KONGO WA SABA. AT 0200 HOURS ON 16 MAY, THE PRESIDENT AGREED TO LEAVE ZAIRE ON THAT DAY. THE SENIOR OFFICIALS COMMENTED LATER THAT THEY BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT HAD, IN FACT, ALREADY MADE THE DECISION TO DEPART DURING A FAMILY MEETING EARLIER IN THE EVENING.

COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, FORMER CIVIL GUARD COMMANDER GENERAL ((BARAMOTO)) KPAMA KATA, RETURNED ON 15 MAY FROM SOUTH AFRICA. IT APPEARS THAT HE RETURNED TO ATTEND THIS FAMILY GATHERING.) THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS ALSO BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT'S APPARENT CHANGE OF HEART MAY HAVE BEEN COORDINATED WITH FRENCH PRESIDENT JACQUES ((CHIRAC)), IN COMMUNICATION EARLIER ON 15 MAY. THEY SUSPECT THAT CERTAIN ASSURANCES WERE RECEIVED FROM CHIRAC CONCERNING GUARANTEES FOR MOBUTU FAMILY MEMBERS.

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2. THE UNIVERSAL REACTION OF HIS ADVISORS TO THE PRESIDENT'S AGREEMENT TO DEPART ZAIRE WAS ONE OF RELIEF. ALTHOUGH MOBUTU'S EXACT ITINERARY IS NOT KNOWN, IF HIS PARTY FLIES FIRST TO THE PRESIDENTIAL VILLAGE OF GBADOLITE AS ANTICIPATED, HE IS NOT EXPECTED TO REMAIN THERE MORE THAN A FEW HOURS BECAUSE OF THE INSECURITY RESULTING FROM THE REBEL FORCES' ADVANCE ON THAT LOCATION. THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE ON TO MOROCCO FROM GBADOLITE. THE DEPARTURE OF THE PRESIDENT ALSO IS VIEWED AS CLEARING THE WAY FOR THE NEXT ECHELON OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS TO LEAVE ZAIRE BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF REBEL LEADER LAURENT ((KABILA))'S FORCES IN THE CAPITAL. COMMENT: MOBUTU'S SPECIAL ADVISOR FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, ((NGBANDA)) NZAMBOKO ATUMBA, DEPARTED ZAIRE FOR TOGO ON 15 MAY ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS BUT IS NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN TO ZAIRE IN THE NEAR TERM.)

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3. WITH THE PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE, THE RECENTLY RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC - PARLIAMENT OF TRANSITION (HCR-PT), MONSIGNOR ((MONSENGWO)), HAS INITIATED A PLAN TO CONTACT KABILA IN SOUTH AFRICA. AS OF EARLY 16 MAY, MONSENGWO WAS ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE IN ORDER TO ARRANGE AN IMMEDIATE MEETING IN SOUTH AFRICA WITH KABILA AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT NELSON ((MANDELA)). THIS APPROACH, WHICH HAS THE APPROVAL OF MAHELE AND TSHIMBOMBO, AND THE TACIT SUPPORT OF PRIME MINISTER GENERAL ((LIKULIA)) BOLONGO AND NZIMBI, INVOLVES NEGOTIATING A "GENTLE ENTRY" OF REBEL FORCES INTO KINSHASA AND A HANDOVER OF MOST OF THE POLITICAL POWER TO KABILA. THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF THE HCR-PT PRESIDENT'S APPROACH TO KABILA IS TO AVOID HAVING REBEL FORCES SHOOT THEIR WAY INTO THE CAPITAL AT THE COST OF MANY CIVILIAN LIVES. THE ADHERENTS OF THIS APPROACH TO KABILA HAVE AGREED THAT IF KABILA REFUSES A DIALOGUE WITH MONSENGWO OR WILL NOT HALT THE ADVANCE OF HIS FORCES ON KINSHASA, 21 FAZ AND DSP TANKS POSITIONED AT N'SELE, EAST OF N'DJILI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MAY ATTEMPT TO DEFEND AGAINST THE REBEL ADVANCE FROM THE EAST.

POC: [REDACTED] CUSTOMER

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COMMENTS WELCOME.

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[Redacted] USUN, USCINCEUR, EUROM JAC, CINCUSAREUR, CINCUSAFE, CINCUSNAVEUR, USCINCCENT, COMUSNAVCENT, USCINCSOC, JSOC, USNMR SHAPE (FOR SACEUR), USCINTRANS, USCINACOM, AIC, COMSIXTHFLT, CTF 61, CTF 62.

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CABLETYPE: [Redacted]

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RELNO: [Redacted]

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