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SERIAL: MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIGEST (MID) 349-5A

BODY

SUBJ: SOMALIA: ARMS PROLIFERATION. (U)

DOI: 15 DEC 93 (AS OF 1840 EST)

TEXT: 1. ~~(C)~~ DESPITE THE UN ARMS EMBARGO, WEAPONS PROLIFERATION REMAINS A MAJOR CAUSE OF SOMALIA'S INSTABILITY, AND UN FORCES ARE IN NO POSITION TO STEM THE FLOW OF ARMS.

2. (U) SINCE THE 1991 DOWNFALL OF PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE'S REGIME, EVER-INCREASING AMOUNTS OF SMALL ARMS HAVE ENTERED SOMALIA FROM MANY COUNTRIES--WITH OR WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS. THESE NATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS: DJIBOUTI, ETHIOPIA, ITALY, IRAN, IRAQ, KENYA, KUWAIT, PAKISTAN, SAUDI ARABIA, SUDAN, SYRIA, UGANDA, THE UAE, YEMEN, AND THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA.

3. (U) ARMS TRAFFICKERS INCLUDE GOVERNMENTS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

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ACTING INDEPENDENTLY OR AT THE BEHEST OF THEIR LEADERS, ARMS DEALERS, SOMALI EXPATRIATES, SMUGGLERS, AND PRIVATE ENTREPRENEURS. MILITARY EQUIPMENT FLOWS INTO SOMALIA BY LAND, SEA, AND AIR ROUTES, AND TRADERS ARE KNOWN TO USE WEAPONS IN PLACE OF CURRENCY. DETECTING SUCH SHIPMENTS IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT BECAUSE MOST ARE SMALL LOTS AND ARE MOVED BY NONTRADITIONAL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION.

4. ~~(S/NF)~~ MOGADISHU'S ENTRY POINTS SERVE BOTH THE AIDEED AND ALI MAHDI FACTIONS, ALTHOUGH AIDEED ALSO RECEIVES WEAPONS THROUGH HOBYO. KISMAYO SUPPORTS THE MORGAN AND JESS FACTIONS, AND BERBERA IS A CONDUIT FOR MATERIEL DESTINED FOR THE SOMALI NATIONAL MOVEMENT. THE SOMALI SALVATION DEMOCRATIC FRONT--YUSUF AND MUSA FACTIONS--RECEIVES ARMS THROUGH BOSSASSO.

5' ~~(S)~~ COMMENT: SO LONG AS THE SOMALI FACTIONS WANT TO ARM THEMSELVES AND DEALERS BELIEVE THEY CAN EARN A PROFIT, WEAPONS WILL CONTINUE TO FLOW INTO SOMALIA. BECAUSE OF LENGTHY, POROUS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS, SOMALIA'S NEIGHBORS AND UN FORCES CAN DO LITTLE TO REDUCE THE TRAFFICKING.

6. ~~(S)~~ EVEN IF UN FORCES INITIATED A COMPREHENSIVE DISARMAMENT PROGRAM, SOMALIS COULD ACQUIRE REPLACEMENT WEAPONS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. MOREOVER, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS WILL ENSURE A CONTINUED MOVEMENT OF WEAPONS INTO THE COUNTRY. WITHOUT THE WILLING COOPERATION OF THE SOMALI FACTIONS, STEMMING THE INFLUX OF ARMS INTO SOMALI IS BEYOND THE CAPABILITIES OF ANY NATION OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO CONTROL.

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7' ~~(S/NF)~~ A REGION AWASH IN SMALL ARMS. FOR MORE THAN 2 DECADES, SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA HAVE ENGAGED IN INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL WARFARE SUPPORTED BY SUBSTANTIAL WEAPONS DELIVERIES FROM MOST OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR SUPPLIERS. THESE CONFLICTS BROUGHT THOUSANDS OF SMALL ARMS AND OTHER INFANTRY-TYPE WEAPONS INTO THE REGION. ALL SOMALI CLANS CAN DRAW ON THIS SUPPLY. PREVENTING ADDITIONAL DELIVERIES WOULD HAVE NO IMPACT ON THE SUPPLY OF ARMS ALREADY AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, NEW SHIPMENTS PROVIDE BETTER QUALITY WEAPONS THAN THOSE REMAINING FROM PREVIOUS REGIONAL CONFLICTS.

CONFIRMED SMALL ARMS DELIVERIES SINCE 1968 (1)

	SOMALIA	ETHIOPIA
RIFLES	100,000	225,000
MACHINEGUNS	12,500	5,000
MORTARS	700	900
RPG LAUNCHERS	800	1,500
SAMS	100	1,750

(1) MOST WEAPONS DELIVERIES TO THESE COUNTRIES COULD ONLY BE IDENTIFIED BY GROSS TONNAGE, SO THE ACTUAL QUANTITIES OF SMALL ARMS RECEIVED PROBABLY WERE CONSIDERABLY GREATER THAN THE CONFIRMED NUMBERS.

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ADMIN
DECL: OADR

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