

DEC 1980

S-12,075/DC-4B /Mr. McGarey/45496/26Nov80/aav

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY REVIEW

SUBJECT: MiG-23, MiG-21L/N (U)

1. (S/NOFORN/WNINTEL) Through the efforts of USDAO Somalia, a two-man USAF/FTD team has examined in Somalia MiG-23F and MiG-21L/N crashes (both Ethiopian) and has returned certain components to FTD. Examination of the MiG-23F (which disclosed no surprises) and the collection of factory markings and serial numbers will bolster DIA/CIA estimates of MiG-23 production. Examination of a crashed Libyan MiG-23 in Italy last summer indicated previous production estimates to be overly conservative.
2. (S/NOFORN/WNINTEL) The MiG-21L/N is the first of the type seen. Substantial exterior differences in the engine and radar were noted: both are being returned to FTD for disassembly and detailed analysis. Full significance of the MiG-21L/N awaits analysis of the components and data acquired.
3. (S/NOFORN/WNINTEL) The cockpit section and other major structural components of the MiG-23F are being acquired as displays for the Air Force RED FLAG/Soviet Awareness Program.
4. (S/NOFORN/WNINTEL) The mission, which had State Department prior approval and cognizance throughout, was delayed for a time until a pending mutual assistance agreement with Somalia was signed. The FTD mission appears to have been first beneficiary of this agreement - cooperation of the Somali Government and Air Force was outstanding, as was the intermediary role performed by the USDAO.
5. (S/NOFORN/WNINTEL) The mission appears to have been an unusually fortuitous and fruitful one. As the crashes occurred in remote and metal-hungry areas, considerable effort on the part of local village chiefs and the Somali authorities was required to retrieve missing pieces, but excellent success was achieved. The team fleetingly observed other Soviet equipment, principally ground force, supplied to Somalia, which may warrant a subsequent technical team visit if such can be arranged.
6. (U) The Secretary of Defense and the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, have been similarly informed.

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 Defense Intelligence Agency
 By SXB Date 1-25-05
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SIGNED

EUGENE F. TIGHE
 Lieutenant General, USAF
 Director

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