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INFO OCT-01 PM-03 EUR-12 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 OMB-01 /055 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3575
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UNCLAS NAIROBI 05226

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E.O. 11652: N/A SUBJ: NAIROBI NEWS PAPER RUNS BERBERA PHOTOS, SUPPORTS DIEGO GARCIA

- 1. NAIROBITS LEADING NEWSPAPER, THE DAILY NAIROBI, PUBLISHED A HIGH-ALTITUDE DOD PHOTOGRAPH OF BERBERA ON SATURDAY AND THREE MURE IN ITS SUNDAY EDITION, TOGETHER WITH SOMALI AND SOVIET PROTESTATIONS THAT NO SOVIET BASE EXISTS THERE, AND FOLLOWED ON MONDAY WITH A STRONG EDITORIAL CONDEMNING THE SOVIET PRESENCE.
- 2. DAILY NATION EDITORIAL SAID THE PAPER HAD FOR YEARS STEADILY OPPOSED ANY BIG POWER MILITARY PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN, PORT CALLS BY FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS, AND U.S. EXPANSION OF DIEGO GARCIA, BUT IN VIEW OF THE EVIDENCE OF SOVIET MISSILES AT BERBERA THE CONCEPT OF A ZUNE OF PEACE IS "NOT OPERATIVE ANYMORE."
- 3. EDITORIAL ADOED: "THE LOGIC OF THE SITUATION, THEREFORE, MAKES THE PRESSENCE OF THE UNITED STATES IN DIEGO GARGIA NOT ONLY NECESSARY FOR THE BALANCE OF POWER (TERROR) BUT WELCOME. THE TRAGEDY HERE IS THAT THIS BALANCE OF POWER (TERROR) DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE SECURITY

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OF THE NATIONS BORDERING THE INDIAN OCEAN. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET MISSILES IN SOMALIA. CONSEQUENTLY, SOMALIA IS TO BLAME FOR THE EVENTUAL CONFRONTATION OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THIS IS SO BECAUSE BY ALLOWING INSTALLATION OF THESE MISSILES ON HER SOIL, SOMALIA HAS VIRTUALLY REMOVED ANY ARGUMENT FOR A ZONE OF PEACE AND SILENCED OPPOSITION TO MILITARY PRESENCE OF THE MAJOR POWERS IN THE OCEAN."

- 4. "IT IS NAIVE TO ASSUME THAT THE SOVIETS WILL NOT USE THE PRESENCE OF MISSILES IN SOMALIA TO ADVANCE THEIR INTERESTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE RED SEA AND THE ADJACENT TERRITORY."
- 5. NEWS PAPER SAID "NOBODY SHOULD BE FOOLED BY THE RHETORIC"; OF SOVIET AND SOMALI PROTESTATIONS OF INNOCENCE IN THE MATTER.
- 6. PHOTO DISPLAY AND EDITORIAL SIGNIFICANT IN VIEW OF FACT NO KENYAN NEWSPAPER RUNS CRITICISM OF AFRICAN NEIGHBOR WITHOUT HIGH-LEVEL APPROVAL. PHOTOS NO DOUBT GIVEN THE PAPER BY GOK, CUSHING

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