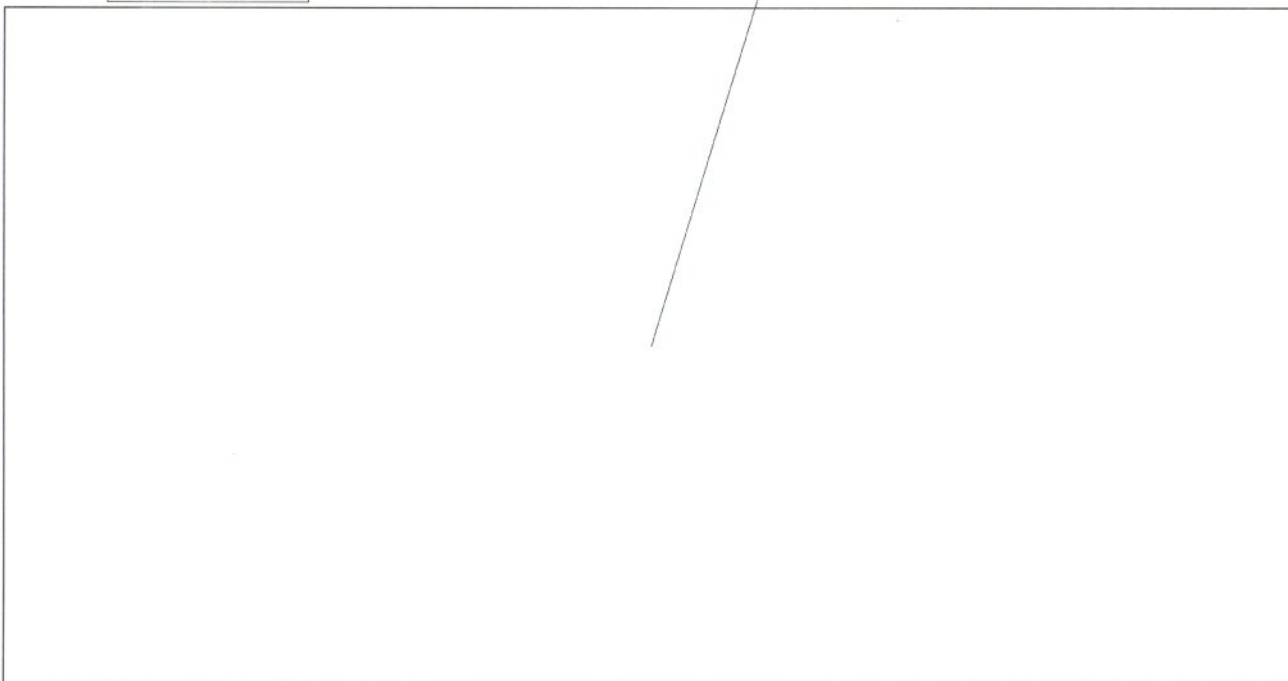


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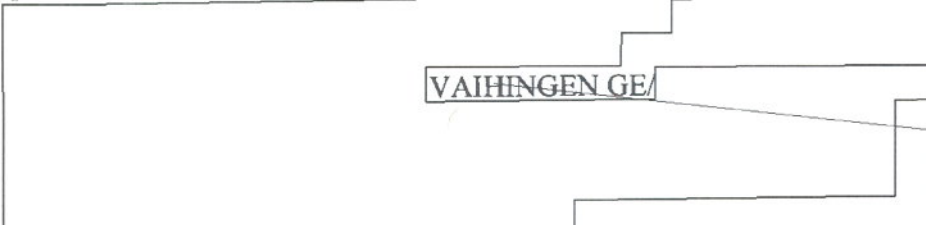
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BODY=COUNTRY: (U) ZIMBABWE (ZI); DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (CG);

NAMIBIA (WA); ANGOLA (AO); UGANDA (UG); RWANDA (RW); SOUTH AFRICA (SF).

(b)(3):10 USC 424

SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT MUGABE; ZIMBABWE'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO ~~(CONF)~~

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. THE OVERALL CLASSIFICATION OF THIS REPORT IS ~~SECRETNOFORN~~.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 980900 .

(b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

SUMMARY: ~~(CONF)~~ ZIMBABWE'S CITIZENS HAVE VOICED MILD DISCONTENT WITH PRESIDENT MUGABE'S DECISION TO DEPLOY TROOPS TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT KABILA.

TEXT: 1. ~~(CONF)~~ SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT MUGABE. ZIMBABWE'S CITIZENS HAVE VOICED MILD DISCONTENT WITH SOME OF THE POLICIES OF PRESIDENT ROBERT ((MUGABE)). PRESIDENT MUGABE DEPLOYED A BATTALION OF TROOPS (LATER INCREASED TO A BRIGADE) TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DROC) IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT LAURENT ((KABILA)) WITHOUT THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF PARLIAMENT. NO PARTICULAR ZIMBABWEAN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP WAS SINGLED OUT AS VOICING DISAPPROVAL, BUT LOCAL NEWSPAPERS INDICATED THAT POPULAR OPINION HAD BEEN AGAINST PRESIDENT

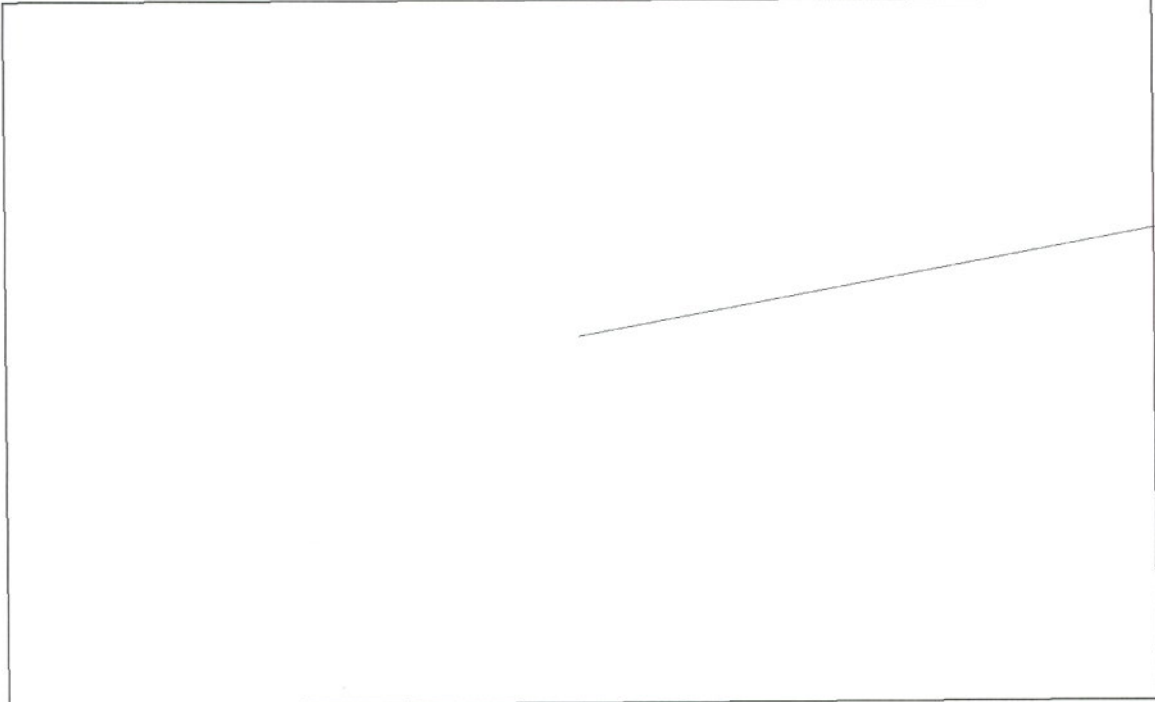
(b)(3):10 USC 424

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MUGABE'S DECISION. THE ZIMBABWEAN SOLDIERS, ALONG WITHS OLDIERS FROM NAMIBIA AND ANGOLA, APPEARED TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN TURNING THE WAR IN FAVOR OF THE CURRENT DROC GOVERNMENT. THENUMBERS OF DEAD AND WOUNDED WERE SAID TO BE UNDER-REPORTED IN THE HARARE PRESS, WHICH RESULTED IN THE SUBSEQUENT PUBLICATION OF SKEPTICAL NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS. THIS -DEBATE- LASTED FOR A FEW DAYS AND THEN DISAPPEARED FROM THE NEWSPAPERS ENTIRELY.

2. ~~(C/NF)~~ SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT. AN IMPASSE OVER DROC OCCURRED AT ONE POINT BETWEEN PRESIDENT MUGABE, WHO FAVORED SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) MILITARY ACTION IN DROC, AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT NELSON ((MANDELA)), WHO FAVORED A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS. DURING DISCUSSIONS HELD AT THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS CONFERENCE IN DURBAN [REDACTED] SOUTH AFRICA, PRESIDENT MANDELA ULTIMATELY CONCEDED THAT A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION COULD NOT BE FOUND TO THE SITUATION, AND APPROVED SADC'S INTERVENTION IN DROC IN SUPPORT OF KABILA'S GOVERNMENT.

(b)(3):10 USC 424



(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c);Sec. 1.4(d)

4. ~~(C/NF)~~ ECONOMIC STABILITY. THE COST OF LIVING FOR THE AVERAGE ZIMBABWEAN CITIZEN IS QUITE HIGH. PRI CES FOR FOOD AND OTHER STAPLES

(b)(3):10 USC 424



(b)(3):10 USC 424

EXCEED WHAT CAN BE PURCHASED WITH STANDARD WAGES IN THE COUNTRY. AS A RESULT, THE HEAD OF THE TRADE UNION CALLED FOR A BRIEF NATIONWIDE STRIKE IN MAR 98 AS A SHOW OF DISCONTENT. ANOTHER STRIKE PLANNED FOR 7 SEP 98 WAS NARROWLY AVERTED WHEN THE GOVERNMENT CONCEDED TO MOST OF THE CRITICAL DEMANDS OF THE TRADE UNION (PRINCIPALLY TAX AND LEVY REBATES) IN LAST-MINUTE NEGOTIATIONS ON 4 SEP 98.

[Redacted]

(b)(1);(b)(3):10 USC 424;Sec. 1.4(c)

WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~SECRET~~ NOFORN.
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