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ELECTRICAL RELEASE
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DIST: [redacted]

UNUSUAL NUMBER OF SOVIET PASSENGER SHIPS EN ROUTE CUBA

1. At the present time there are at least four, and possibly five (the ADMIRAL NAKHIMOV), Soviet passenger ships en route Cuba with a possible 3335 passengers on board. Three of these ships departed Baltic ports and two departed Black Sea ports. Following is a summary of the passenger ships en route or possibly en route Cuba (all information on the three ships departing the Baltic is estimated):

	Departed	Last Known Position	Passengers on Board	ETA Cuba
MARIYA ULYANOVA [ULGH, 4871GT, PAS]	Kaliningrad 10 Jul	Within 40 n.m. of 23-48N 63-06W at 231612Z	340	26 Jul
KHABAROVSK [UUYW, 4871GT, CG]	Leningrad 10 Jul	32-55N 45-35W at 221500Z	740	26 Jul
MIKHAIL URITSKIJ ULGF, 4871GT, PAS]	Riga 12 Jul	Within 60 n.m. of 30-06N 53-30W at 231700Z	340	28 Jul
LATVIYA [UYYB, 4871GT, PAS]	Black Sea 13 Jul	Within 60 n.m. of 32-00N 49-00W at 240509Z	365	28 Jul
ADMIRAL NAKHIMOV [UKDD, 15286GT, PAS]	Odessa 16 Jul	37-26N 06-11E at 211500Z	1540	1 Aug

2. Available information indicates that the KHABAROVSK and the MIKHAIL URITSKIJ were to make voyages to Vladivostok; however, it is not known at this time whether these ships will proceed to the Far East via the Panama Canal after departing Cuba or whether the Vladivostok voyage announcements are deceptive measures to conceal Cuban voyages. The ADMIRAL NAKHIMOV and the LATVIYA both declared for Conakry when departing the Black Sea. However, the LATVIYA is tracking toward Cuba and it is considered likely that the ADMIRAL NAKHIMOV will follow suit.

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3. Since 16 July the KHABAROVSK and the MIKHAIL URITSKIJ have been recipients of high precedence [redacted] messages which may indicate these two ships are engaged in other than routine activities.

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