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ELECTRICAL RELEASE
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NEW SOVIET CARGO SHIP EN ROUTE CUBA WITH POSSIBLE MILITARY CARGO

1. The new Soviet cargo ship BELORETSK [USMZ], built in Copenhagen and subsequently noted in underway trials off Norway in the latter part of April 1962, is now en route Cuba from Arkhangel'sk via the Great Circle route.

2. The BELORETSK bunkered at Murmansk before departing for Arkhangel'sk, where it arrived on or about 10 May, and is estimated to have departed as late as 28 May. It was scheduled to load 2500 standards of sawn timber; however, only 1670 standards (approximately 5240 metric tons) were loaded. Its announced cargo-carrying capacity is 14,150 metric tons and its estimated gross tonnage is 10,300 tons. The 1670 standards of lumber is the only known cargo on board and appears to be a relatively light load for a ship of this size when compared with the DEKABRIST [UOML, 7176GT] which delivered 5583 metric tons of lumber to Cuba in April and the ORENBURG [UYXH, 11050EGT] with 10,013 metric tons (3189 standards) of sawn timber on board now en route Cuba. It is therefore believed that the BELORETSK may be carrying a partial load of military cargo following a pattern similar to the cargo ships BALTIJSK, BRATSK, L'GOV, KOLKHOZNIK, and TBILISI, all of which carried MTB's and/or towed patrol vessels to Cuba from the Murmansk area (see 0/6856-62 and 0/9480-62). It is not felt, however, that this ship is towing a patrol vessel as the SOA has been as high as 19 to 20 knots.

3. The last-reported position on the BELORETSK was 49-48N 37-36W at 031500Z June.

SECRET

((DETACH PRIOR TO RELEASE TO NON-INDOCTRINATED RECIPIENTS))

(DIST: [redacted]