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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY JAPAN CUBA CHINA NORTH KOREA REPORT NO. TDCS -3/559,427
SUBJECT NORTH VIETNAM
PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CUBAN
REPRESENTATIVE AND JAPANESE SHIPPING FIRM
TO BEGIN REGULAR SHIPPING SERVICE TO CUBA
VIA ROUTE LINKING NORTH KOREA, COMMUNIST
CHINA AND NORTH VIETNAM
DATE OF INFO. AUGUST TO MID SEPTEMBER 1963
PLACE & DATE ACQ. JAPAN, TOKYO (16 SEPTEMBER 1963)
PRECEDENCE ROUTINE
REFERENCES IN 22370
TDCS-3/555,764
FIELD REPORT NO. FJT 9460

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE A JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN (C) ASSOCIATED WITH LEFTIST BUSINESS CIRCLES, FROM SEIWA SHIPPING COMPANY OFFICIAL YONEKURA TSUTOMU. YONEKURA IN NOVEMBER 1962 SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED AND SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH NORTH KOREA WHICH INITIATED REGULAR SHIPPING SERVICE BETWEEN JAPAN AND NORTH KOREA BY SEIWA KAIUN SHIP.

APPRAISAL: THE PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT PROBABLY HAS BEEN SIGNED.

SUMMARY: CUBAN AND JAPANESE SHIPPING REPRESENTATIVES HAVE REACHED A PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT TO OPEN A REGULAR SHIPPING SERVICE BETWEEN JAPAN AND CUBA VIA NORTH KOREA, COMMUNIST CHINA AND NORTH VIETNAM. AFTER THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT APPROVES THE AGREEMENT, THE JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE WILL DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH NORTH KOREA, COMMUNIST CHINA AND NORTH VIETNAM.

1. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BERNARDO C. REVUELTA, A CUBAN SHIPPING OFFICIAL ASSIGNED TO THE CUBAN TRADE MISSION IN TOKYO, AND SEIWA SHIPPING COMPANY (SEIWA KAIUN) OFFICIAL YONEKURA TSUTOMU HAVE RESULTED IN A PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT FOR REGULAR SHIPPING SERVICE BETWEEN JAPAN AND CUBA BY SEIWA KAIUN SHIPS VIA A ROUTE LINKING

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GROUP 1
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STATE/INR	DIA	ARMY/ACSI	NAVY	AIR	JCS	SECDEF	NSA	NTC	AID	USIA	OCI	ONE	OCR	ORR	OO	FBI	
STATE/DIR	REPCINCLANT										COAST GUARD			TREASURY			I&NS

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NORTH KOREA, COMMUNIST CHINA, AND NORTH VIETNAM AS REGULAR STOPS AND POSSIBLY INDONESIA AND CHILE AS STOPS ON CARGO-AVAILABLE BASIS. (SOURCE COMMENT. SEIWA KAIUN IS A SUBSIDIARY OF THE NISSHO STEAMSHIP COMPANY (NISSHO KISEN). AT PRESENT SEIWA KAIUN HAS ONLY TWO SHIPS, ONE OF WHICH IS IN REGULAR SERVICE TO NORTH KOREA. NISSHO KISEN IS SCHEDULED TO SPLIT UP INTO "NISSHO KISEN" TO HANDLE FOREIGN SHIPPING AND "NISSHO KAIUN" TO HANDLE DOMESTIC SHIPPING. THE NEW NISSHO KISEN WILL IN TURN MERGE LATER THIS YEAR WITH YAMASHITA KISEN AND SHIN NIPPON KISEN TO FORM A NEW SHIPPING COMPANY. SEIWA KAIUN WILL REMAIN AS A DUMMY FIRM TO HANDLE BLOC SHIPPING FOR THE NEW SHIPPING COMPANY. UNDER THE NEW SETUP, SEIWA WILL HAVE MORE SHIPS AT ITS DISPOSAL.)

2. REVUELTA PREFERRED A DIRECT ROUTE BETWEEN JAPAN AND CUBA BUT AGREED TO THE ROUNDABOUT ROUTE AS PROPOSED BY YONEKURA. YONEKURA SAID THAT SINCE A DIRECT RUN WOULD NOT BE PROFITABLE IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT SMALL VOLUME OF EXPORTS TO CUBA, HE INSISTED ON INCLUDING THE OTHER COUNTRIES MENTIONED IN THE ROUTE.

3. AFTER THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT APPROVES THE AGREEMENT, YONEKURA PLANS TO VISIT NORTH KOREA, COMMUNIST CHINA, AND NORTH VIETNAM TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER.

4. FIELD DISSEM. CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC STATE ARMATT NAVATT AIRATT USFJ USARJ COMNAVJ 5AF 6499SG 5001CG D046/OSI CINCLANT CINCOS.

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