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SNFD-15,361/CO25 /Mr. McGAREY/71301/G/18Oct66

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIRMAN JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Soviet Material from Ghana (S)

1. (C) In connection with the visit of Major General KOTOKA, Minister of Defense and Chief of the Armed Forces of Ghana, the following background information is offered.
2. (SNFD) Through negotiations conducted by the Defense Attache Ghana (LTC Jones) with the full participation and support of US Ambassador Williams, the Ghanaian Armed Forces in the person of General KOTOKA have made available a very considerable quantity of Soviet ground force equipment. US interest was expressed to Ghana as a single requirement but included the combined intelligence interests of the Department of Defense, as well as certain small arms and ammunition desired by the Central Intelligence Agency for operational use, and certain small arms, ammunition and other equipment desired by Army for training purposes. Three airlift shipments have been delivered to CONUS of nine, twenty-seven, and twenty-six tons respectively.
3. (SNFD) All items of Soviet equipment received are responsive to valid collection requirements. From the intelligence standpoint the most valuable items received have been:
 - a. Three ZU23, 23 mm antiaircraft/ground automatic cannon, together with spare parts, optics, and 15,000 rounds of ammunition, sufficient for comprehensive firing tests. This weapon is very effective against low-flying high performance aircraft, helicopters, and lightly armored vehicles. While not yet identified in Vietnam it is a logical choice to appear there. Full exploitation of this weapon is under way.
 - b. Three ASU 57 self-propelled 57 mm antitank guns. This is the most recently developed item of Soviet armor in US possession. It may be air-dropped and provides anti-armor support to Soviet airborne troops. It is expected to yield significant test data against US armor and an insight to Soviet armored technology.

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c. Three R113 radios mounted in the ASU 57s. This is the basic Soviet armored vehicle radio used in the operational control of armor at all combat levels. Exploitation of this item is underway initially for the development of electronic countermeasures against it.

4. (SNFD) Army funds in the amount of \$650,000 were provided for this operation and at this time \$474,000 (less transportation costs) has been committed. However, General KOTOKA has not been interested in cash reimbursement but rather in barter for equipment needed for the Ghanaian Armed Forces. His requests to date and disposition made are as follows:

a. Blank ammunition. 7.62mm NATO standard, year's requirement 1.3 million rounds. 200,000 rounds have been delivered (\$12,000), and an order placed for the balance (\$88,000) for phased delivery.

b. Fatigue uniforms. 20,000 sets (\$110,000). This is General KOTOKA's prime concern; he desires the uniforms within six weeks and cannot understand US inability to meet his requirements and those of Vietnam simultaneously. It is believed the critical Army shortage will ease toward the first of the year, and either Army or manufacturer stocks will be available at that time.

c. Truck tires and batteries. 500 truck tires were requested and 329 have been delivered; the remainder will be delivered shortly. 200 truck and vehicular batteries were requested and delivered. The total value of tires and batteries is \$27,000.

d. Spare parts for M113 Armored Personnel Carriers in the amount of \$4,600 were requested and delivered.

e. M19D helicopter spare parts have been delivered but cost has not been determined. It will, however, be less than \$10,000.

f. Powdered milk (\$8,000) and medical supplies (\$1,300) were provided as cover cargoes for the three flights inbound to Ghana, as ostensible relief supplies, and were given as gifts.

5. (SNFD) Since the items above total only \$240,000 versus \$474,000 reported as committed in the field, an Army representative who accompanied the most recent flight has remained in Ghana temporarily to compile General KOTOKA's remaining requirements. These will be serviced by Department of the Army to remove further burden from the Defense Attache.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

SIGNED

RICHARD W. WHITNEY
Major General, USA
Chief of Staff

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