NEW SOVIET CARGO SHIP EN ROUTE CUBA WITH POSSIBLE MILITARY CARGO

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

2. The BELOROISK bunkered at Murmansk before departing for Archangel'ak, where it arrived on or about 10 May, and is estimated to have departed as late as 20 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 18,360 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 BEREZHNIK [UKR, 7176GT] which delivered 5587 metric tons of lumber to Cuba in April and the KRENITSIN [UKR, 11160GT] with 10,813 metric tons (3169 standards) of sawn timber on board now en route Cuba. It is therefore believed that the BELOROISK may be carrying a partial load of military cargo following a pattern similar to the cargo ships BALTIISK, BRATISLAVA, L'GOV, KOLSKOZNIK, and THILIS, all of which carried MGB's and/or towed patrol vessels to Cuba from the Murmansk area (see 0/6856-62 and 0/6888-62). 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 BELOROISK was 49.0N 37.36W at 031500Z June.

SECRET