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AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Somalia
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ACTION INR-05

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SERIAL: EA2610200490

COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJ: MOSCOW RADIO COMMENTS ON 'CHAOS' IN SOMALIA

SOURCE: MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN SOMALI 1600 GMT 25 OCT 90
TEXT:

// (FROM THE "WORLD EVENTS TODAY" PROGRAM)

(TEXT) THREE WERE KILLED AND OVER 30 INJURED IN THE 23 OCTOBER CONFRONTATION BETWEEN POLICE AND DEMONSTRATORS IN MOGADISHU. OUR COMMENTATOR, VLADIMIR BORISOV, COMMENTS:

(BORISOV) HUNDREDS WERE PARTICIPATING IN A DEMONSTRATION CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES WHEN THE POLICE FIRED ON THEM. THE ORGANIZERS OF THE DEMONSTRATION, WHOM THE GOVERNMENT CALLS TROUBLEMAKERS, WERE APPEALING TO THE PEOPLE TO MARK 23 OCTOBER AS POLITICAL DETAINEES' DAY. THE SOMALI MASSES ARE ENRAGED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO RELEASE THOSE DETAINED BY THE SOMALI NATIONAL SECURITY COURT. THE NEW CONSTITUTION, WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON 12 OCTOBER 1990, ABOLISHED THE COURT.

MOGADISHU, ONE OF THE FEW PLACES CONTROLLED BY THE SIAD BARRE REGIME, IS ENTERING A NEW ERA OF CHAOS. THESE LATEST DEMONSTRATIONS AND THEIR REPERCUSSIONS CONSTITUTE CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE COUNTRY IS IN TOTAL CHAOS. THE QUESTION IS: WHAT WILL BE THE OUTCOME OF ALL THIS CHAOS? *✓ ?*

LAST WEEK WAS THE 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF SIAD'S COMING TO POWER. THE THREE MAJOR REBEL GROUPS ISSUED A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING THE MERGER OF THEIR FORCES TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT. THEY STRESSED THERE COULD BE NO DIALOGUE WITH THE SIAD BARRE REGIME. THIS COMMUNIQUE CAST A DARK SHADOW OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO HOLD TALKS WITH THE REBELS. THE REBEL GROUPS HAVE NOT YET ANNOUNCED ANY TANGIBLE POLITICAL PROGRAM. THEY ARE NOTHING BUT TRIBAL ARMED REBELS, WHO IN NO WAY COULD BE CALLED A POLITICAL *✓*

OPPOSITION. THE CONTINUING ARMED STRUGGLE IS A STRUGGLE FOR POWER,

WHICH PLACES A QUESTION MARK ON THE REBEL LEADERSHIP'S ABILITY TO ACHIEVE FULL UNITY.

HOWEVER, IT IS AN UNDENIABLE FACT THAT THE MILITARY MERGER OF THE REBEL GROUPS CONSTITUTES A THREAT TO THE REGIME. THE REBEL GROUPS HAVE REALIZED THAT THEIR DISUNITY HELPED THE REGIME TO CLING TO POWER, DESPITE THE CHAOTIC SITUATION, BUT EVEN IF THE GOVERNMENT IS TOPPLED BY THE JOINT REBEL MILITARY FORCES, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE CIVIL WAR BLAZING IN SOMALIA WILL END. THE CIVIL WAR WILL SIMPLY BLAZE FURTHER.

SOMALIA MIGHT FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LIBERIA, BUT THE LATEST EVENTS IN MOGADISHU ALSO SHOW THAT SOMALIA'S DESTINY MIGHT TAKE A DIFFERENT COURSE. MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALISTS HAVE UNEXPECTEDLY APPEARED IN POLITICAL LIFE. THEY ARE OPPOSED TO THE NEW CONSTITUTION, WHICH PROVIDES FOR FORMING MANY PARTIES AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION. THE MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALISTS HAVE CONDEMNED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ADOPTING A EUROPEAN-STYLE CONSTITUTION, ARGUING THAT ONLY ISLAMIC LAW CAN SALVAGE THE COUNTRY FROM CHAOS. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PREVAILING CRISIS, THE MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALISTS APPEAR TO BE WORKING TO BRING ABOUT THE DOWNFALL OF THE GOVERNMENT.
REDDALL 251600 ██████████ 26/2040Z OCT

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