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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00638 071742Z

12

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-0
071861

R 071653Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2059
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 0638

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, TSPA, AG

SUBJ: UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS OVER ALGERIA

REF: ALGIERS 0355; STATE 029080 (NOTAL)

1. SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINISTRY DEFENSE, COL. ABDELHAMID LATRECHE, ASKED ME TO CALL AT MINISTRY MARCH 7. PURPOSE OF CALL WAS TO ASK ME IF WE COULD SHED ANY LIGHT ON STRANGE "MACHINES" WHICH HAD BEEN MANEUVERING OVER ALGERIAN AIRSPACE IN RECENT WEEKS.

2. HE SAID STORY STARTED LAST JANUARY WITH APPEARANCE THREE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN BECHAR WHO ANNOUNCED THEY WERE THERE TO COVER ARRIVAL OF BALLOON WHICH TAKING OFF FROM CALIFORNIA. I SAID THIS WAS PRESUMABLY REFERENCE TO JOURNALISTS WHO HAD COME TO COVER MALCOM FORBES' PROPOSED FLIGHT WHICH HAD BEEN ABORTED AT LAST MINUTE.

HE SAID THAT MIGHT BE, BUT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER ALGERIANS BEGAN SEEING STRANGE OBJECTS IN SKY. THEY HAD BEEN SEEN NEAR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS BY

PAGE 02 ALGIER 00638 071742Z

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