

SCRIPT MV FAINA

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PRESENTATION

With the arrival of the MV Faina in Kenya an end has come to a controversial hijacking that took many months.

The ship was hijacked by pirates in the Somali waters.

It has an extra dimension because of rumours had that there were 33 Soviet tanks on board.

Especially the American were afraid the weaponry would fall in wrong hands.

Lengthy negotiations with the pirates led to the release of the MV Faina, and it continuation of her trip to the Kenyan port of Mombasa.

The crew and the agent are happy, but where the tanks will eventually end up remains a mystery.

BETA

SOUNDBITE TANK ROLLING OUT OF CARGO BAY

33 tanks of Soviet build.

They here come out the MV Faina after 4 months.
and it proves they were really there.

They're parked here, waiting for further transportation by train.

Because of a low tide it took a while before the actual unloading could start.

The MV Faina arrived a few days earlier.

Its 20 crew members here get an official welcome.

They look tired, and are kept away from the press.

For 4 months they were held captive by Somali pirates.

Only after payment of 3,2 million Dollars ransom, the ship could continued its journey to Mombasa.

There the arrival of the ship is a public event.

Dozens of people on the shore are looking at it.

Ruud Elmendorp in Mombasa [translated from Dutch]

With the proposed unloading of the ship, we are waiting now for high tide, comes an end to hijack case that lasted since September last year.

The crew is happy to go home, their families.

Now comes the question who actually owns the tanks.

Kenya say they're meant for deployment in the army.

SOUNDBITE HANDOVER TANK MODEL

So there is a symbolically hand over.

Still confidential documents show the tanks are destined for Southern Sudan.

Then Kenya would have facilitated the breach of a weapons embargo for that country.

While it was involved in the peace deal in 2005.

The government spokesman refuses to comment.

QUOTE ALFRED MUTUA, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN
No side shows. We' let you know.

The Kenyan government invited the press to see the tanks in action after 6 months.
The off loading of the tanks is only possible at high tides.
So it could take some more days.

ENDS