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SECRET

CITE TDFIR DB-315/10912-76

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

DIST 1 NOVEMBER 1976

Political matters - Cuba

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COUNTRY CUBA/VENEZUELA

DOI 28 OCTOBER 1976

SUBJECT COMMENTS OF CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN VENEZUELA ON PERSONS DETAINED BY VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE CUBANA AIRLINE CRASH

ACQ VENEZUELA, CARACAS (30 OCTOBER 1976)

SOURCE A VENEZUELAN BUSINESSMAN WITH CLOSE CONTACTS IN BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES. HIS RELIABILITY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED.

Adm. markings
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REC-52
FIELD NO. HVC 7534
SI-108 DE-40 109-12-210-7116

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1. ON 28 OCTOBER 1976 OFFICIALS OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS, VENEZUELA, SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA (GOC) IS WAITING TO SEE WHAT THE VENEZUELAN ARE GOING TO DO WITH THE INDIVIDUALS UNDER DETENTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE 6 OCTOBER CRASH OF A CUBANA AIRLINER. THE CUBAN EMBASSY HAS AS YET RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM HAVANA, AND THE CUBAN OFFICIALS PREDICTED THAT THE

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GOC WOULD NOT MAKE A FIRM DECISION UNTIL 2 NOVEMBER, SINCE THE COURT'S FINDINGS ARE DUE FOR PRESENTATION ON 1 NOVEMBER. (FIELD COMMENT: ON 29 OCTOBER THE LOCAL PRESS INDICATED THAT THE COURT'S DECISION WOULD BE MADE DURING THE WEEK OF 1 NOVEMBER.)

2. THE CUBAN OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, SAID THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT ORLANDO BOSCH, LUIS POSADA, HERNAN R IC ARDO, AND Ven FREDDY LUGO, THE FOUR DETAINEES, WOULD BE RELEASED BY THE VENEZUELAN. DAVID MORALES BELLO, A LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY (AD), THE CUBANS SAID, WANTS THE FOUR MEN RELEASED. ONE OF MORALES' LAW ASSOCIATES IS A GOOD FRIEND OF JUDGE DELTA ESTABA, WHO IS HEARING THE CASE, AND MORALES' REQUEST FOR THE RELEASE OF THE FOUR IS BEING MADE VIA THIS LAW ASSOCIATE. (SOURCE COMMENT: THE CUBANS DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE REASON MORALES WANTED THE MEN RELEASED, NOR DID THEY IDENTIFY THE LAW ASSOCIATE.)

3. BOSCH, THE CUBANS SAID, WOULD PROBABLY BE TURNED OVER TO UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES. SHOULD BOSCH BE FLOWN OUT OF VENEZUELA VIA PANAMA, THE CUBANS SAID, THE GOC WOULD TAKE BOSCH OFF THE PLANE IN PANAMA REGARDLESS OF WHICH AIRLINE IS USED TO TRANSPORT HIM.

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4 IN ANY EVENT, THE CUBAN OFFICIALS INSISTED THAT, IF THE FOUR MEN
3 WERE RELEASED, THEY WOULD BE KILLED. THE CUBANS SAID THAT THE
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VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AND THE CUBAN EXILES ALL HAVE REASON TO WISH THE FOUR DEAD AS A MEANS OF KEEPING THEM QUIET. THE CUBAN OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO KILL THEM, UNLESS ANOTHER GROUP DID IT FIRST. THE CUBANS SAID THAT NO MATTER WHICH GROUP ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT THE ASSASSINATIONS, EVERYONE WOULD BELIEVE THE CUBANS WERE RESPONSIBLE. THE FOUR MEN, THE CUBANS SAID, MUST PAY FOR THEIR ACTIONS BECAUSE, SHOULD THEY GO FREE, OTHER INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO ATTACK CUBANS ANYWHERE. (FIELD COMMENT: FOR AN EARLIER REPORT ON CUBA'S INTENTIONS TOWARDS THOSE IMPLICATED IN THE CUBANA CRASH SEE [] (S) 522, TDFIRDB-315/10534-76, OF 21 OCTOBER, FROM THE SAME SOURCE.)

4. WHILE THE OFFICIAL CUBAN COMMUNITY IN CARACAS HAS ALWAYS BEEN CAUTIOUS, SINCE THE CUBANA ATTACK THEIR PRECAUTIONS HAVE BEEN INCREASED. THE CUBAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE AMBASSADOR, CURRENTLY CARRY TWO PISTOLS AT ALL TIMES. A LARGE CALIBER PISTOL IS CARRIED IN MEN'S PURSES, WHICH ARE FASHIONABLE IN CARACAS. A SMALLER CALIBER PISTOL IS CARRIED IN THEIR BELTS.

5. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY, FBI AT CARACAS: SENT TO PANAMA

5 CITY, CINCSO (J-2 ONLY)
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