
* C C N F I D E N T I A L *

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MESSAGE CENTER

OTTCZFF4 RUESQIA1328 0491640
IMMEDIATE

O 181624Z FEB 81 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9504
RUESLM/AMEMBASSY LIMA NIACT IMMEDIATE 5485
RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA NIACT IMMEDIATE 559
INFO RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE 1631
RUESNA/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE 2399
RUESGY/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL IMMEDIATE 5236
RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN IMMEDIATE
BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 1328

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, PBCR, PE, EC
SUBJECT: MISSING HELICOPTER SITREP NO.1

REF: QUITO 1311

1. AS OF 1000 LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 18, AIR SEARCH FOR
OBSERVER COMMISSION MISSING UH-1H HELICOPTER CONTINUES.
THIS MORNING, TWO GOE AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS AND THE U.S.
C-130 SEARCHED IN THE VICINITY OF YANGANA, LAST KNOWN
POSITION OF THE MISSING HELICOPTER. CLOUDY WEATHER IMPEDED
SEARCH EFFORTS THIS MORNING, BUT REPORTS FROM LOJA INDICATE
CLOUD COVER OVER AREA MAY BREAK UP LATER TODAY. TWO
ECUADOREAN ARMY PATROLS ARE CONTINUING THEIR GROUND SEARCH

ACTION

(U,6,7,8)

13

INFO NIDS(*) SAGA(*) J3:NMCC(*) J5(*)
IADB(*) RDJTF:LO(*) SECDEF:(*) SECDEF(*) USDP(**)
NMIC(*) SWS(*) AT(*) VP-A2 FRD(*) DE(*) DB-2B(*)
DB-3E(*) DB-4A(*) DB-5(*) DIA FILE(*) ARMY(5)
NAVY(5) AIR FORCE(3)

< TOTAL COPIES REQUIRED 13

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IN AREA.

2. SEARCH AREA IS ABOUT FIVE MILES BY TEN MILES (I.E., 50 SQUARE MILES). THE AREA IS EXTREMELY RUGGED, RANGING BETWEEN 600 METERS AND 3000 METERS IN ALTITUDE. THERE IS FREQUENT RAIN THIS TIME OF YEAR.

3. THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL WERE ABOARD THE UH-1H:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CREW CHIEF. NO FOREIGN PERSONNEL ON BOARD. SUPPORT GROUP AT LOJA BELIEVED THEY PICKED UP VOICE OF [REDACTED] ONCE ON FEBRUARY 17, ABOUT 1200 LOCAL TIME.

4. AS OF 2000 LOCAL TIME FEBRUARY 17, REMAINING U.S. HELICOPTER IN LOJA WAS TAKEN OFF OBSERVER COMMISSION DUTY AFTER JOINT DECISION OF USSOUTHCOM AND HELICOPTER CREW. REASONS ARE THAT HELICOPTER IS BEING USED FOR SEARCH, AND PILOTS DO NOT RECOMMEND FLYING OBSERVER COMMISSION MISSIONS UNLESS THERE IS A SECOND HELICOPTER TO SERVE AS WING MAN. HELICOPTER WILL NOT RESUME OBSERVER COMMISSION SERVICE UNTIL ORDERED TO DO SO.

5. MISSING HELICOPTER SUPPLIED WITH ONE JUNGLE SURVIVAL KIT, FIVE GALLONS OF WATER, ONE CASE C-RATIONS, FLIGHT JACKETS, ONE PONCHO LINER, AND ONE WORKING PRC-90 SURVIVAL RADIO.

[REDACTED]

UNZALEZ
BT

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