

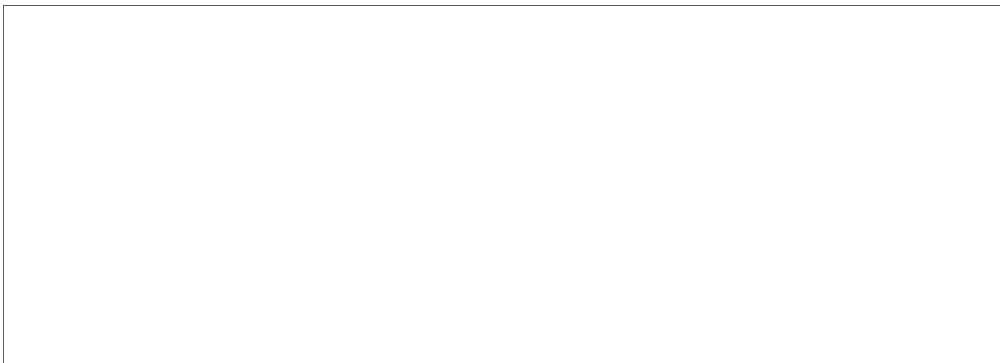
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Document [redacted] FEB 1990

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Subject: [redacted] EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE OF LIFE ARTICLE'S ACCUSATION THAT NORIEGA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "ASSASSINATION" OF EX-PRESIDENT JAIME ROLDOS

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CITE [redacted]

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TO: PRIORITY DIRECTOR [redacted]

WNINTEL INTEL

SUBJECT: [redacted] EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE OF LIFE ARTICLE'S ACCUSATION THAT NORIEGA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "ASSASSINATION" OF EX-PRESIDENT JAIME ROLDOS

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1. ON 20 FEBRUARY 1990, A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE OF THE QUITO DAILY "EL COMERCIO" REPORTED THAT AN ARTICLE IN "LIFE" MAGAZINE IMPLICATED NORIEGA IN THE 24 MAY 1981 DEATH OF THEN-PRESIDENT JAIME ((ROLDOS)) AGUILERA. OTHER MEDIA SOURCES WERE QUICK TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS SENSATIONAL STORY, AND ON 21 FEBRUARY MORNING RADIO INTERVIEWS AND A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN THE QUITO DAILY "HOY" WERE DEDICATED TO NORIEGA'S ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN ROLDOS' DEATH. NOT SURPRISINGLY, BLAME HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM NORIEGA TO THE CIA. JAIME'S BROTHER LEON ((ROLDOS)) AGUILERA HAS SAID THAT "SINCE NORIEGA WAS A CIA AGENT, WE CANNOT PLACE THE RESPONSIBILITY SOLELY WITH NORIEGA, BUT MUST ALSO FIND FAULT WITH THE INTELLECTUAL AUTHORS, IN THIS CASE THE CIA." IN RESPONSE TO A DEMAND BY OSCAR ((CELLERI)), NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE ECUADORIAN ROLDOSIST PARTY (PRE), CONGRESSIONAL PRESIDENT WILFRIDO ((LUCERO)) HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL FORM A NEW COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE ONCE AGAIN THE EX-PRESIDENT'S DEATH. ([redacted] COMMENT: FOLLOWING ROLDOS' DEATH IN 1981, THREE SEPARATE COMMISSIONS WERE FORMED TO INVESTIGATE THE DEATH: A MIXED-PARTY CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION, A COMMISSION OF THE ECUADORIAN AIR FORCE, AND ONE OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE. BASED ON AN EXAMINATION OF THE REMAINS OF THE AIRCRAFT, THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT THE PLAN CRASHED DUE TO A FAILURE OF THE TURBINE ENGINES, WHICH WAS CAUSED BY A LACK OF FUEL.)

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3. FILE: NONE. DECL [redacted] DRV [redacted]

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CL BY: [redacted]

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REASON:
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