

FORM 10-75 1K OBSOLETE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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Intelligence Information Cable

● ROUTINE
IN 083172
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WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

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CITE [Redacted]

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DIST 29 OCTOBER 1976

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[Redacted] --DISSEMINATION AND EXTRACTION

OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR

COUNTRY CUBA/ECUADOR/JAMAICA

DOI [Redacted]

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SUBJECT COMMENTS BY CUBAN OFFICIALS ON 6 OCTOBER CRASH OF CUBANA AIRLINER AND ASSASSINATION OF ORLANDO LETELIER, FORMER CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

ACQ [Redacted]

FIELD NO.

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SOURCE [Redacted]

[Redacted]

1. JESUS E S C A N D E L ROMERO, CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE CENTRAL UNION OF CUBAN WORKERS (CTC), AND ANTONIO L O P E Z LAMAS, CTC CHIEF OF LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS, DURING THEIR VISIT TO ECUADOR FROM 7 TO 14 OCTOBER 1976 TO ATTEND AN

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INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE, TOLD LEADERS OF THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CONFEDERATION OF ECUADOREAN WORKERS (CTE) THAT CUBA IS EAGER TO GET REVENGE FOR THE SABOTAGE OF THE CUBANA AIRLINES PLANE WHICH CRASHED IN BARBADOS ON 6 OCTOBER KILLING ALL OF ITS PASSENGERS. ESCANDEL AND LOPEZ SAID THEY BELIEVE CUBAN EXILES SPONSORED BY THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SABOTAGE. [Redacted]

COMMENT: (b)(1)
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[Redacted] ESCANDEL AND LOPEZ MET WITH JUAN

V A S Q U E Z BASTIDAS, CTE PRESIDENT; JOSE C H A V E Z, PRESIDENT OF THE ECUADOREAN CONFEDERATION OF FREE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS (CEOSL); AND ALBERTO P I L A L O T OF ECUADOREAN CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS ORGANIZATIONS (CEDOC). THE CUBANS REQUESTED PUBLIC SUPPORT FROM THE ECUADOREAN LABOR LEADERS AGAINST THE ALLEGED CIA SABOTAGE OF THE CUBANA AIRLINES PLANE. THE ECUADOREAN LABOR LEADERS AGREED TO ISSUE A COMMUNIQUE EXPOSING THE ALLEGED CIA ACTIONS AGAINST CUBANA AIRLINES.)

2. REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ON 21 SEPTEMBER OF ORLANDO L E T E L I E R, FORMER CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S., ESCANDEL SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THAT THE CURRENT CHILEAN GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LETELIER'S DEATH. ESCANDEL SAID THAT,

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ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVES THAT THE CIA PRESENTLY IS INVOLVED IN MANY PLOTS AND ACTIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, ITS POLICY DOES NOT INCLUDE PERPETUATING SUCH VIOLENT ACTIONS ON U.S. TERRITORY. ESCANDEL SAID THAT THE CIA IS UNABLE TO CONTROL THE CURRENT CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AND THAT LETELIER'S ASSASSINATION IS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS LACK OF CONTROL.

3. [Redacted] COMMENT: [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted] THE

CUBAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THROUGH ITS INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES IS INVOLVED IN THE CRASH OF THE CUBAN PLANE AND ALSO IN THE ASSASSINATION OF LETELIER. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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A CUBAN DIPLOMAT IN JAMAICA MADE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME COMMENTS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE VENEZUELAN ARRESTED IN TRINIDAD FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLANE CRASH CONFESSED TO BEING A MEMBER OF "EL CONDOR," A CUBAN EXILE GROUP, AND TO BEING ASSOCIATED WITH ORLANDO B O S C H, A CUBAN EXILE LEADER. ACCORDING TO THE CUBAN DIPLOMAT, THE VENEZUELAN CONFESSED THAT "EL CONDOR" WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 6 OCTOBER BOMBING, THE 9 JULY 1976 ATTEMPT TO BOMB A

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CUBANA PLANE IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA, AND THE ASSASSINATION OF LETELIER. HE ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED U.S.\$40,000 TO CARRY OUT HIS TASKS. IN HIS COMMENTS THE CUBAN DIPLOMAT DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER OR NOT THIS MONEY COVERED ONLY ONE OR A SERIES OF ACTS.)

4. [Redacted] COMMENT: [Redacted]

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[Redacted] A CUBAN OFFICIAL IN ARGENTINA SAID [Redacted] THAT IT WAS CERTAIN THAT THE CIA AND AGENTS OF THE CHILEAN NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE (DINA) WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 6 OCTOBER PLANE CRASH, THE KILLING OF LETELIER AND THE 1974 ASSASSINATION OF GENERAL CARLOS P R A T S, FORMER COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE CHILEAN ARMED FORCES.)

5. [Redacted] DISSEM: EMBASSY AT QUITO. [Redacted]

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