

SECRET

RELEASE IN FULL

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 DODE-00 EB-08 PM-07 NSC-05 SP-02  
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /064 W  
-----120615 281552Z /43

R 241340Z OCT 80  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1273  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
INFO USINT HAVANA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

SECRET PANAMA 09058

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior  
Reviewer

EO 12065: GDS 10/22/86 (MILLS, JOHN), OR-E  
TAGS: EAIR, PN, CU, ES, NU  
SUBJECT: CUBAN EFFORT TO FIRST REGISTER AIR CHARTER  
FIRM IN PANAMA WHOSE AIRCRAFT CRASHED WITH SALVADORAN  
LEFTIST LEADER ABOARD IN PANAMA

1. (SECRET-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. IN REFERENCE TO THE DEATH OF SALVADORAN FORCES  
OF NATIONAL LIBERATION (FARN) LEADER ERNESTO  
JOVEL IN THE SEPTEMBER 16 PANAMA CRASH OF  
NICARAGUAN AEROCOMMANDER WITH TAIL NUMBER YN-BWP  
REGISTERED TO "AEROTAXI S.A." IN MANAGUA, HERMES  
CARRIZO, PANAMANIAN DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION  
(DAC) (PROTECT), TOLD ECONOFF THAT CUBAN  
AMBASSADOR MIGUEL BRUGUERAS DEL VALLE CAME TO HIM  
IN EARLY 1980 WITH THE REQUEST TO BASE "AEROTAXI"  
IN PANAMA TO OPERATE THREE LEARJETS WITH CUBAN  
PILOTS. BRUGUERAS TOLD CARRIZO THAT HE ALREADY  
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HAD THE PERMISSION OF LT COLONEL MANUEL ANTONIO  
NORIEGA, CHIEF OF NATIONAL GUARD INTELLIGENCE  
(G-2), TO ESTABLISH THE COMPANY. CARRIZO SAID  
THAT HE NEVERTHELESS TURNED DOWN THE CUBAN EFFORT  
BECAUSE HE INSISTED THAT A PANAMANIAN REGISTERED  
AIR COMPANY MUST HAVE PANAMANIAN PILOTS, WHICH  
BRUGUERAS REFUSED TO CONSIDER. CARRIZO ADDED  
THAT HIS DECISION CAUSED SOME PROBLEMS FOR HIM  
WITH LT COLONEL NORIEGA, BUT THAT HE DID NOT  
BUDGE. THE CUBANS THEN ESTABLISHED "AEROTAXI"

IN MANAGUA. MOSS

SECRET

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