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DIST 14 OCTOBER 1976

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POLITICAL MATTERS

COUNTRY: VENEZUELA/CUBA

DOI : LATE SEPTEMBER - 12 OCTOBER 1976

SUBJECT: ACTIVITIES OF CUBAN EXILE LEADER ORLANDO BOSCH DURING
HIS STAY IN VENEZUELA

VENUEZUELA, CARACAS (13 OCTOBER 1976) FIELD NO. [REDACTED] 7514

SOURCE: A FORMER VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHO STILL MAINTAINS

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. HE IS A

USUALLY RELIABLE REPORTER. THIS INFORMATION IS NOT TO BE

DISCUSSED WITH ANY FOREIGN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THOSE

OF THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT.

1. (FIELD COMMENT: IN LATE SEPTEMBER 1976 A USUALLY RELIABLE

SOURCE REPORTED THAT CUBAN EXILE LEADER ORLANDO BOSCH WAS IN

VENEZUELA UNDER THE PROTECTION OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS

ANDRES PEREZ. FURTHERMORE, PEREZ HAD APPOINTED HIS SECURITY

AND INTELLIGENCE ADVISER ORLANDO GARCIA TO PROTECT AND ASSIST

BOSCH DURING HIS STAY IN VENEZUELA. FOR THIS INFORMATION SEE

70 NOV 17 1976 TDFIR DB-315/09814 -76, IN [REDACTED] 7483, TDFIR DB-315/09430-76.

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OF MID-SEPTEMBER, A SOURCE OF UNDETERMINED RELIABILITY REPORTED THAT BOSCH ARRIVED IN VENEZUELA ON APPROXIMATELY 13 SEPTEMBER.

2. UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN CARACAS, BOSCH WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY GARCIA AND LUIS CLEMENTE POSADA, A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR AND ONE-TIME MEMBER OF THE DIRECTORATE FOR THE SERVICES OF INTELLIGENCE AND PREVENTION (DISIP), WHO ESCORTED BOSCH TO HIS CARACAS HOTEL. (FIELD COMMENT: WHILE CURRENTLY NATURALIZED VENEZUELAN CITIZENS, BOTH GARCIA AND POSADA ARE NATIVE-BORN CUBANS.)

3. SOMETIME FOLLOWING BOSCH'S ARRIVAL IN CARACAS, A BS. 5,000 (APPROXIMATELY U.S. \$1,118) A PLATE FUND-RAISING DINNER FOR BOSCH WAS HELD AT THE HOME OF HILDO FOLGAR, A PROMINENT SURGEON AND CUBAN EXILE. IN ADDITION TO BOSCH, AMONG THOSE ATTENDING THE DINNER WERE GARCIA; RICARDO MORALES NAVARETTE, GARCIA'S DEPUTY WHO IS ALSO A NATIVE-BORN CUBAN; POSADA; AND AN UNIDENTIFIED HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

4. DURING THE EVENING BOSCH APPROACHED THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIAL THROUGH GARCIA PROPOSING THAT THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CASH CONTRIBUTION TO HIS ORGANIZATION. IN RETURN, BOSCH AGREED TO GUARANTEE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CUBAN EXILE DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES DURING PRESIDENT PEREZ' PLANNED

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NOVEMBER APPEARANCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS (UN). (SOURCE COMMENT: IT IS BELIEVED THAT BOSCH'S PROPOSITION WAS AT LEAST TENTATIVELY ACCEPTED BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIAL.)

5. ALSO DURING THE EVENING BOSCH MADE THE STATEMENT THAT, "NOW THAT OUR ORGANIZATION HAS COME OUT OF THE LETELIER JOB LOOKING GOOD, WE ARE GOING TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE." BOSCH DID NOT NAME THE ORGANIZATION NOR DID HE EXPAND ON HIS MEANING. (FIELD COMMENT: THE LETELIER MENTIONED ABOVE IS PROBABLY FORMER CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER ORLANDO LETELIER, WHO WAS ASSASSINATED IN THE UNITED STATES ON 21 SEPTEMBER.)

6. A FEW DAYS FOLLOWING THE FUND-RAISING DINNER, POSADA WAS OVERHEARD TO SAY THAT, "WE ARE GOING TO HIT A CUBAN AIRPLANE," AND THAT "ORLANDO HAS THE DETAILS." (SOURCE COMMENT: THE IDENTITIES OF THE "WE" AND "ORLANDO" MENTIONED IN THE STATEMENT ARE NOT KNOWN.)

7. FOLLOWING THE 6 OCTOBER CUBANA AIRLINE CRASH OFF THE COAST OF BARBADOS, BOSCH, GARCIA AND POSADA AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR BOSCH TO LEAVE VENEZUELA. THEREFORE, ON 9 OCTOBER POSADA AND GARCIA ESCORTED BOSCH TO THE COLOMBIAN BORDER, WHERE THE LATTER CROSSED OVER INTO COLOMBIAN TERRITORY.

8. ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM TRINIDADIAN

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AUTHORITIES IMPLICATING HIM, POSADA WAS ARRESTED BY DISIP AUTHORITIES ON 12 OCTOBER. HIS OFFICE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RAIDED AND ALL FILES AND EQUIPMENT CONFISCATED.

9. MEANWHILE, PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS ASSURED THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT, THROUGH CUBAN AMBASSADOR NORBERTO ~~X~~ H E R N A N D E Z ~~X~~ CURBELO, THAT THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT WILL ENERGETICALLY PURSUE THE INVESTIGATION OF THE CUBANA CRASH. IN RETURN, HOWEVER, CUBA WILL BE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT VENEZUELA'S ANTI-TERRORISM POSITION AT THE UN.

10 (EMBASSY COMMENT: THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTS: "THE LEGATT HAS DIFFERENT INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER BOSCH WAS EXFILTRATED OR IS OR IS NOT IN VENEZUELA. GARCIA SPOKE TO LEGATT SUNDAY MORNING, 10 OCTOBER, AND ON THE AFTERNOON OF 12 OCTOBER TOLD HIM "INFORMALLY" THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD SHORTLY ADVISE ME THAT BOSCH WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO US. THIS WAS REPEATED TO LEGATT BY DISIP DIRECTOR RAUL ~~X~~ G I M E N E Z ~~X~~ GAINZA AND OTHER DISIP OFFICIALS (INCLUDING GARCIA) IN A MEETING THE MORNING OF 13 OCTOBER. CONCEIVABLY GARCIA CAN BE PLAYING A DARK GAME, BUT THE DISCREPANCIES ARE NOTEWORTHY. I HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL WORD AS TO THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION.")

11. FIELD ~~SS 4~~: EMBASSY, LEGATT AT ~~OR EAST~~ SENT TO

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