

SECRET

STAFF

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18 APRIL THAT THEY WERE HERE TO COVER THE LINTONE VISIT. DCM TOLD [] THAT AMBASSADOR HAD ACCEPTED AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ABC NEWS- MEN AND WAS TOLD BY THE NEWS TEAM THAT VARGAS HAD TOLD THEM ESSENTIALLY WHAT HE HAD TOLD NVENGRAM AND LINTONE OFFICIALS. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR UNDER PRESIDENT BANZER HAD PASSED TO [] INFORMATION THAT IT HAD OBTAINED FROM ALTMAN BARBIE. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER VARGAS PASSED THE NEWSMEN NAMES OF FORMER [] CONTACTS SUCH AS IDEN A. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED TO NEWSMEN THAT EMBASSY OFTEN RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITHOUT KNOWING THE ULTIMATE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION. HE ADDED THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE EMBASSY WAS IN ANY WAY INVOLVED WITH THE ULTIMATE SOURCE OF INFORMATION. AMBASSADOR SAID, NONE- THELESS, THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY EMBASSY ELEMENT HAVING RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM ALTMAN BARBIE IN THE PAST, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. ABC TEAM LATER IN THE DAY WAS TRYING TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW WITH OFFICIALS OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY.

4. STATION TRACES IDENTIFY A FREDDY ((VARGAS)) MENDEZ WHO WAS A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN 1973 AND A SUB-SECRETARY OF INTERIOR IN 1974. FREDDY VARGAS IS NOW A MEMBER OF THE BOLIVIAN PARLIAMENT.

5. FILE: 201-019126. DECL: OADR DRV HUM 4-82 ALL SECRET

END OF MESSAGE

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