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Memorandum for the Record

KEY: C/96-05950

EVENT: MEMBER BRIEFING **DATE:** 05/09/1996 **TIME:** 16:00 **STATUS:** COMPLETED
PLACE: H-405 CAPITOL
FOR: REPS DIAZ-BALART, ROS-LEHTINEN, MENENDEZ,
SUBJECT: CUBA--SHOOT DOWN INCIDENT

ATTENDEES:

ASSOCIATION

NAME

ROLE

DCI/OCA



BRIEFER

DI/APLA



SUPPORT

HIRC



SUPPORT

HIRC

NORIEGA, ROGER

SUPPORT

HPSCI

WILSON, SCOTT

BARTON, CHRISTOPHER (CHRIS)

HPSCI

LOWENTHAL, MARK

HPSCI/STAFF

MILLIS, JOHN

REP

DEUTSCH, PETER [D-FL]

REP

DIAZ-BALART, LINCOLN [R-FL]

REP

MENENDEZ, ROBERT [D-NJ]

REP

ROS-LEHTINEN, ILEANA [R-FL]

Executive Summary:

[EXECUTIVE-SUMMARY]

1. [Redacted] This briefing was held to inform interested members of the Intelligence Community's decision to provide International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) investigators with a tape of inadvertent collection of communications between Brothers-to-the-Rescue (BTTR) planes shot down by Cuban fighters. [Redacted] was the lead briefer. Overall, the briefing went well though Rep Ros-Lehtinen was unsatisfied with the proceedings.

[SUPPORTING-TEXT]

2. [Redacted] Unfortunately, members arrived expecting to hear a response to allegations (telephoned to them this morning by a Miami Herald reporter) that the US Government had a tape of Raul Castro personally ordering the shutdown of the BTTR aircraft. In particular, Ros-Lehtinen arrived angry (and left the same way). She was sure that information was being withheld. She did not believe that it was a coincidence that the Miami newspaper reporter had a story that morning and we were there to brief them on new information that afternoon. Diaz-Balart tried to calm down Ros-Lehtinen, asking her to listen to our story first.

3. [Redacted] The members were told that the purpose of the briefing was to discuss new information being passed to

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the ICAO. The ICAO investigators were being provided with both the tape/transcript of the MiG pilots' conversations and the recent tape/transcript of the BTTR conversation. [] explained how [] came to have a BTTR tape and stressed that due to the special circumstances surrounding the tape, a special waiver had been made []
[] In response to a question from Menendez, [] stated that these were all the tapes that [] had. None others existed.

4. [] Generally, there was little interest in the substance of the BTTR tapes. The briefing focused more on the Raul allegations and whether or not any other tapes existed. During the Raul discussion, the [] briefer stated that on the tape of the MiG pilot conversation, there is an unidentified military official who gives the order to shoot. There was speculation that this could be Raul. Ros-Lehtinen demanded to know why she was not told in the previous briefing on the MiG tape that this possibility existed. Doyon replied that until today's press allegations that Raul gave the order, this possibility was never considered. It was highly unlikely that this was Raul, but we did not know for sure.

5. [] In response to a question from Menendez, [] agreed to try to do a voice analysis of the tape to see if it is Raul Castro.

6. [] As Ros-Lehtinen and Deutsch left, Menendez and Diaz-Balart stayed to ask for press guidance. They were told that they could say that:

- the US government was working with the ICAO investigation.
- the US government had provided all of the tapes and transcripts it has relating to the shutdown to the investigators to review.
- they (the Congressmen) had requested that the tapes be examined again to see if Raul Castro is on them. Menendez and Diaz-Balart were appreciative of the briefing.

[]

Office of Congressional Affairs

DCI/OCA/[] (13 Jan 96)

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Summary Text:

Follow-up Action Items:

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Additional Information:

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