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 FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0000  
 INFO RUESBG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE 1645  
 RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE 7845  
 RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE 1958  
 RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE 1966  
 RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE 8393  
 RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE 7439  
 RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE 8088  
 RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE 7847  
 RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 987  
 RUEDEHA/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PNAMA IMMEDIATE

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 3936

EO 12356: N/A

TAGS: PINS MOPS ASEC NU CS

SUBJECT: AIR BOMBING RAID ON MANAGUA

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 0530 SEPTEMBER 8 TWO CESSNA AIRCRAFT  
 CARRIED OUT BOMBING RAIDS ON SEPARATE TARGETS IN MANAGUA.  
 ONE PLANE DROPPED BOMBS NEAR THE RESIDENCE OF FOREIGN  
 MINISTER MIGUEL D'ESCOTO WHILE THE SECOND PLANE BOMBED  
 SANDINISTA AIR FORCE (FAS) AND AERONICA INSTALLATIONS AT

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State Dept. review completed

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SANDING AIRPORT. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL GRN STATEMENTS, THERE WERE NO INJURIES OR DAMAGE FROM THE BOMB DROPPED NEAR THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S RESIDENCE. THE PLANE WHICH ATTACKED SANDING AIRPORT WAS SHOT DOWN BY AIR DEFENSE PERSONNEL. THE ATTACKERS, IDENTIFIED AS AUGUSTIN ROMAN, FORMER AERONICA PILOT, AND SEBASTIAN NUHLER, AN ALLEGED FAS DESERTER, WERE KILLED. THE PLANE CRASHED INTO THE AIRPORT PROTOCOL LOUNGE AT THE BASE OF THE TOWER. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT REPORTS THERE WERE NO DEATHS AMONG AIRPORT OR FAS PERSONNEL. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE A FEW INJURIES, NONE SERIOUS.

2. AN OFFICIAL MINISTRY OF EXTERIOR COMMUNIQUE REPORTED THAT DOCUMENTS WERE FOUND ON ROMAN WHICH INDICATED HE HAD COME FROM THE UNITED STATES. THE COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDED THAT THE PLANES HAD ACTUALLY TAKEN OFF FROM COSTA RICAN TERRITORY. THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE MINISTRY'S COMMUNIQUE STATES: QUOTE BOTH PLANES FORMED PART OF THE ASSISTANCE WHICH THE NORTH AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS GRANTING TO THE COUNTER REVOLUTION TO CARRY OUT TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST OUR PEOPLE. UNQUOTE.

3. CODEL COHEN/HART DIVERTED TO TEGUCIGALPA BUT ARE NOW SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN MANAGUA AT APPROXIMATELY 1230 LOCAL. THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS AS TO WHEN THE AIRPORT WILL BE OPEN FOR COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC; HOWEVER, THE AMBASSADOR, WHO HAS BEEN AT THE AIRPORT SINCE 0915 LOCAL, REPORTED THAT THE REGULAR AERONICA FLIGHT IS SCHEDULED TO LAND SHORTLY.  
QUAINTON

END OF MESSAGE

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