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 FM SECSTATE WASHDC
 TO RUEHMD/USDEL SECRETARY NIACT IMMEDIATE 9292
 RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA NIACT IMMEDIATE 5762
 RUESMG/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA NIACT IMMEDIATE 8508
 INFO RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE 3779
 RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE 4901
 RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE 3579
 RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE 2220
 RUESBG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE 2227
 RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE 2630
 RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE 5493
 RUEOEHA/USCINCSO IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: OREP, NU
 SUBJECT: BOMBING AT MANAGUA AIRPORT

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. EMBASSY MANAGUA HAS CONFIRMED THAT SEVERAL EXPLOSIONS OCCURRED EARLY SEPTEMBER 8 AT SANDINO AIRPORT IN MANAGUA. ACCORDING TO NICARAGUAN RADIO REPORTS, THE GRN CLAIMS THAT TWO CESSNAS, PROCEEDING FROM COSTA RICA, FIRST ATTEMPTED TO UNSUCCESSFULLY BOMB FOREIGN MINISTER MIGUEL D'ESCOTO'S HOUSE; A THIRD PLANE BOMBED SANDINISTA AIR FORCE PLANES AND THE AIRPORT. REUTERS REPORTED THE AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER WAS IN FLAMES. THE GRN REPORTEDLY SHOT DOWN ONE PLANE AND KILLED ITS TWO NICARAGUAN OCCUPANTS.
3. A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT CARRYING CODEL HART (SENATORS HART AND COHEN) WAS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN MANAGUA AT 1110 SEPT. 8 (WASHINGTON TIME). THE PLANE DIVERTED TO TEGUCIGALPA, LANDING AT 1110 WASHINGTON TIME. THE GRN HAS INFORMED EMBASSY MANAGUA THAT THE CODEL HAS PERMISSION TO LAND IN MANAGUA. DEPT TALKED WITH SENATOR COHEN, WHO SAID CODEL WOULD ATTEMPT TO ARRIVE LATER TODAY IN MANAGUA.
4. DEPT IS INFORMING SENATOR BENTSEN, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO GO TO MANAGUA ON SEPTEMBER 10, OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.
5. CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE IF ASKED ABOUT COMPARISON OF ATTACK ON SANDINO AIRPORT AND SOVIET DESTRUCTION OF KOREAN AIRCRAFT IS TO RESPOND THAT QUOTE WE WOULD CONDEMN ANY ATTACK ON INNOCENT CIVILIANS UNQUOTE.
6. WILL REPORT LATER ON SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS. EAGLEBURGER

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