

PRIORITY

SECRET

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Control System

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PRIORITY [redacted] CITE [redacted]

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REFS: A: [redacted]

B: [redacted]

Declassified and Released by the N R C

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

FOLLOWING CABLE TO COS, CARACAS IS QUOTED FOR FYI AND CONCURRENCE. PLEASE ADVISE.

1. WITH REGARD REF B, COPIES OF REQUESTED PRINTS ARE BEING FORWARDED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO AIR ATTACHE AND SUBSEQUENT DELIVERY TO VEN MIN DEF.

2. WITHIN PAST WEEK USAF INFORMATION OFFICE HAS RELEASED TO PRESS STATEMENT CONTAINED IN PARA. 1 OF REF A. NO APPARENT NEWS MEDIA REACTION HAS YET BEEN OBSERVED. HOWEVER, IT ANTICIPATED THAT UPON DELIVERY OF REQUESTED PRINTS TO VEN MIN DEF, FURTHER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION MAY BE FORTHCOMING. STATE DEPT. BY SEPARATE CABLE IS AUTHORIZING AMERICAN EMBASSY TO RELEASE TO VEN PRESS SAME STATEMENT CONTAINED IN PARA 1 OF REF. A, BUT ONLY UPON QUERY. STATEMENT CONTAINED ON PARA. 2 OF REF. MAY BE GIVEN TO VEN MIN DEF. BY ATTACHE. TO PRECLUDE ANY MISUNDERSTANDING AND FOR EASE OF REFERENCE THE SUBJECT STATEMENT IS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THE EQUIPMENT WHICH IMPACTED NEAR LA FRIA, VENEZUELA, THAT WERE RETURNED TO THE U S GOVT BY VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AS BEING PORTIONS OF A SPACE VEHICLE LAUNCHED FROM VANDENBURG AFB, CAL., FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPACECRAFT TECHNIQUES AND TECHNOLOGY. THIS SPACE VEHICLE WAS ESTIMATED TO HAVE RE-ENTERED THE ATMOSPHERE THROUGH NORMAL DECAY 26 MAY 64 IN THE GENERAL CARIBBEAN AREA. EXAMINATION OF THE EQUIPMENT BY U S TECHNICIANS WILL PROVIDE EXTREMELY VALUABLE CORROBORATING DATA RE THE PERFORMANCE OF SPACECRAFT. COOPERATION RENDERED BY THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT, THE VENEZUELAN ARMY, POLICE OFFICIALS, AND THE GOOD CITIZENS OF VENEZUELA, WITHOUT WHICH THIS VALUABLE DATA WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE, IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. END QUOTE.

3. THE U.S. EMBASSY WILL BE REQUESTED TO PLAY THIS TRANSACTION IN LOW KEY AND, WITHIN ITS DISCRETION, TO DISCOURAGE ANY INCLINATION TO GENERATE MAJOR NEWS TREATMENT OF SUBJECT.

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DISTRIBUTION

Control System

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~~SECRET~~

[redacted] COS CARACAS [redacted] VEN MIN DEF USAF [redacted]

NO APPARENT VEN MIN DEF STATE DEPT VEN PARA [redacted]

VEN MIN DEF LA FRIA VENEZUELAN A VANDENBURG AFB CAL 26 MAY 64 CARR [redacted]

BBEAN U S RE VENEZUELAN VENEZUELAN ARMY VENEZUELA U S

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Copies of [redacted] Pages. 12005