

SECRET

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RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00 NSCE-00  
NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SP-02 /009 W

-----021106 301923Z /49

O 301913Z JAN 89  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1259  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE  
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE  
SECDEF WASHDC//ISAIA// IMMEDIATE  
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN//POLAD// IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 00961

CINCSO ALSO FOR INTAFF

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PTER, PINR, AR, US  
SUBJECT: LA TABLADA: COOPERATION WITH THE GOA

REF: STATE 27601

1. (S -- ENTIRE TEXT)
2. SUMMARY/REQUEST. I LAID OUT OUR INTEREST AND NEEDS FOR FULL COOPERATION. GOA'S UNDERSTANDING OF LA TABLADA HAS NOT ADVANCED SIGNIFICANTLY. INTELLIGENCE FROM SPAIN'S GONZALEZ NOW LOOKS LESS IMPRESSIVE. FOREIGN MINISTER CAPUTO ALMOST PLEADED FOR OUR COMING UP WITH SOMETHING ON EXTERNAL SUPPORT, MAKING SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON RELATIONS BETWEEN NORIEGA AND TOMAS BORGE. I ASKED HIM TO IDENTIFY

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POINT OF LIAISON ON GOA SIDE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] END SUMMARY.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON  
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)  
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 29 JAN 2014  
DATE/CASE ID: 07 JUN 2007 200601449

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3. ON RECEIPT OF REFTEL I ARRANGED TO MEET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CAPUTO AT HIS HOME. I TOLD HIM THAT U.S. AGENCIES HAD MET LAST WEEK AND WERE MEETING AGAIN TODAY AND THAT WE WANTED TO COOPERATE AS FULLY AND CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE WITH GOA ON THE LA TABLADA AFFAIR. I LISTED OUR SPECIFIC INFORMATION NEEDS AND CAPUTO WROTE THEM DOWN. IN THAT REGARD IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF THE GOA COULD DESIGNATE ONE CENTRAL POINT FOR MAKING SURE WE GET EVERYTHING IT HAS.

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5. REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL RAMIFICATIONS OF WHAT HAPPENED AT LA TABLADA, I ASKED CAPUTO IF WE COULD NOW GO AHEAD AND SPEAK MORE FREELY ABOUT INFORMATION THAT HAD BEEN PASSED BY FELIPE GONZALEZ TO ALFONSIN. CAPUTO ASKED THAT WE HOLD OFF FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER COUPLE OF DAYS. HE WOULD KNOW MORE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1. HOWEVER, IT NOW APPEARED

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THAT THE INTELLIGENCE WAS NOT AS USEFUL OR RELIABLE AS GONZALEZ HAD ORIGINALLY INDICATED (OR ALFONSIN HAD UNDERSTOOD). IT CAME FROM POLICE SOURCES IN MADRID. WHILE IT RELATED TO POSSIBLE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ULTRA LEFT AND ULTRA RIGHT (THE NORIEGA/BORGE CONNECTION), IT WAS NOT VERY SOLID.

6. I ASKED CAPUTO IF THERE WAS NEW INFORMATION ON THE ORIGINS AND PURPOSES OF LAST WEEK'S ATTACK, NOW THAT GOA HAS HAD CHANCE TO INTERROGATE THE PRISONERS. CAPUTO REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE. THE MORE HUMBLE MEMBERS OF THE GUERRILLA BAND SAID SIMPLY THAT THEY WERE TOLD TO TURN UP AT A CERTAIN PLACE AT A CERTAIN TIME. THEY DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ELSE. THE LEADERS REFUSED TO TALK. CAPUTO PLACED A CALL TO ATTORNEY

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GENERAL D'ALESSIO AND ASKED IF THERE WERE MORE POSSIBLE LINKS TO MANAGUA BEYOND THOSE THAT NOSIGLIA HAD INFORMED POLCOUNS OF ON FRIDAY (B.A. 917). AGAIN NEGATIVE. I NOTED TO CAPUTO THAT ONE OF THE PAPERS ON WEEKEND SAID THAT GORRIARAN MERLO HAD HAD A FALLING OUT WITH MANAGUA TWO YEARS AGO. CAPUTO SAID THAT WAS WRONG. HE HAD TRACED IT BACK. APPARENTLY GORRIARAN MERLO HAD HAD A FIGHT WITH THE ORTEGA BROTHERS, BUT NOT BORGE.

7. CAPUTO LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HE HOPES INVESTIGATION WILL REVEAL AN EXTERNAL COMPONENT TO LA TABLADA. HE FINDS THE ENTIRELY INTERNAL EXPLANATIONS UNCONVINCING. HE REPEATED THAT ALFONSIN INTENDS TO BE "DURISSIMA" IF EXTERNAL LINKS ARE DOCUMENTED. HE IS STILL INTRIGUED BY THE POSSIBLE COMMON INTEREST OF NORIEGA

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 00961

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AND BORGE IN DESTABILIZING ARGENTINA. HE NOTED THAT  
LA TABLADA IS NOW TAKING ON AN INTERNAL POLITICS  
DIMENSION, AND CLEARLY THAT THE USG  
WILL BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH INFORMATION ON EXTERNAL  
SUPPORT THAT WILL BE PERSUASIVE TO THOSE HERE WHO ARE  
NOW LOOKING FOR OTHER EXPLANATIONS.

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