



# DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340-5100



SEP 13 2012

U-12-8,823/DAN-1A (FOIA)

Mr. Peter Schey  
256 S. Occidental Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90057

Dear Mr. Schey:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated August 31, 2007, that you submitted to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) for information concerning the activities of the Brothers to the Rescue (BTTR) organization, the February 24, 1996 shoot down of two BTTR planes, and US government knowledge of the shoot down. I apologize for the delay in responding to your request. DIA continues its efforts to eliminate the large backlog of pending FOIA requests. In order to properly respond, it was necessary to consult with another office within the agency.

A search of DIA's systems of records located 23 documents (74 pages) responsive to your request. Of these responsive records, 19 documents (61 pages) were referred to other government agencies for their review and direct response to you. This referral is necessary because the documents did not originate with DIA.

Upon review, I have determined that some portions of three documents (10 pages) must be withheld in part from disclosure pursuant to the FOIA. The withheld portions are exempt from release pursuant to Exemptions 1 and 3 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(1) and (b)(3). Exemption 1 applies to information properly classified under the criteria of Executive Order 13526. Exemption 3 applies to information specifically exempted by a statute establishing particular criteria for withholding. The applicable statutes are 10 U.S.C. § 424 and 50 U.S.C. § 403-1(i). Statute 10 U.S.C. § 424 protects the identity of DIA employees, the organizational structure of the agency, and any function of DIA. Statute 50 U.S.C. § 403-1(i) protects intelligence sources and methods.

Finally, I have determined that one of the responsive documents (3 pages) must be withheld in full pursuant to the FOIA. These withheld documents are exempt from release pursuant to Exemptions 1 and 3 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(1) and (b)(3).

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you may exercise your right to file an administrative appeal by writing to the address below and referring to case number 0696-2007. Your appeal must be postmarked no later than 60 days after the date of this letter.

Defense Intelligence Agency  
ATTN: DAN-1A (FOIA)  
200 MacDill Blvd  
Washington, D.C. 20340-5100

Sincerely,

*Alesia Y. Williams*  
Alesia Y. Williams

Chief, Freedom of Information Act Staff

3 Enclosures

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CDS

CDSN = CFS244 MCN = 96073/34546 TOR = 960732141

RTTCZYUW RUEKJCS5580 0732141-~~CCCC~~-RUEALGX.

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HEADER

R 132141Z MAR 96

FM DIA WASHINGTON DC

Page 5 of 5  
was denied in  
full and is not  
included.

TO RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC/

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

BT

**CONTROLS**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02

SERIAL: (U) IIR (b)(3):10 USC 42

/\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*/

**BODY**

(b)(3):10 USC 424

COUNTRY: (U) CUBA (CU).

SUBJ: (U) IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424 MEETING WITH SENIOR CUBAN MILITARY OFFICERS (U).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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DOI: (U) 960302.

(b)(1), (b)(3):10 USC 424, 1.4 (c)

SUMMARY: (U) THIS REPORT PROVIDES INFORMATION AND OBSERVATIONS OBTAINED WHILE MEETING WITH CUBAN MILITARY OFFICERS. DISCUSSIONS INCLUDED THE SHOOTING DOWN OF TWO U.S. CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT AND THE OVERFLIGHT OF GUANTANAMO NAVAL STATION BY SUSPECTED CUBAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT.

TEXT: 1. ~~(C)~~ BACKGROUND. (b)(1), 1.4 (c) MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES (FAR) AT THE NORTHEAST GATE OF GUANTANAMO NAVAL STATION 02 MAR 96. FAR ATTENDEES INCLUDED BRIGADIER GENERAL CARLOS ((PEREZ)) PEREZ, COMMANDER GUANTANAMO DIVISION; COLONEL DIOSDEL ((MARTIATUS)) RAMOS, COMMANDER FRONTIER BRIGADE; COLONEL ISOBERTO ((SANFIELD)) BATISTA, GUANTANAMO DIVISION STAFF OFFICER; LIEUTENANT COLONEL JUAN ((SANCHEZ)) PENA, FAR GENERAL STAFF; AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL IBRAHIM ((LOPEZ)) FELIPE. THE MEETING HAD BEEN CALLED ON SHORT NOTICE TO DISCUSS THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. FORCES LOCATED AT GUANTANAMO AND BGEN PEREZ'S FAR FORCES IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SHOOT DOWN OF TWO U.S. CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. THE MEETING WAS REQUESTED ON THURSDAY 29 FEBRUARY AND TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE CUBANS HAD RESPONDED SO QUICKLY TO A MEETING REQUEST AND THE FIRST

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TIME A MEETING AT THE NORTHEAST GATE HAD OCCURRED ON A SATURDAY.

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)

2. ~~(C)~~ SEVERAL ADDITIONAL ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED, INCLUDING THE OVERFLIGHT OF GUANTANAMO NAVAL STATION ON THE EVENING OF 28 FEBRUARY BY AN UNIDENTIFIED CUBAN AIRCRAFT. ALTHOUGH THIS LAST TOPIC WAS NOT CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE U.S. SIDE, BGEN PEREZ CONSIDERED IT THE PRIMARY ISSUE AND HAD GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO INVESTIGATE THE CHARGE PRIOR TO THE MEETING. WHEN THE TOPIC WAS BROACHED, (b)(1), 1.4 (c) OFFERED TO DEFER DISCUSSION BUT BGEN PEREZ INSISTED TO PRESENT DATA HE HAD OBTAINED. COL SANFIELD BRIEFED A CHART OF THE AREA WITH ALL KNOWN FLIGHTS THAT DAY, TO INCLUDE ONE U.S. FLIGHT THAT ORIGINATED AT GUANTANAMO NAVAL STATION. ACCORDING TO COL SANFIELD, NO DATA EXISTED TO INDICATE A CUBAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT HAD OVERFLOWN THE BASE. (b)(1), 1.4 (c)

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)

NEVERTHELESS, IT WAS CLEAR BGEN PEREZ "ENERGIZED" HIS STAFF TO FIND THE CULPRIT FOR THE OVERFLIGHT. HE BROUGHT TO THE MEETING AREA THE CUBAN PILOT OF THE ONLY KNOWN AN-24 AIRCRAFT THAT FLEW IN THE VICINITY. HE EVEN OFFERED UP THE PILOT TO THE (b)(1), 1.4 (c) FOR INTERROGATION. UPON SEEING THE SINCERITY AND EFFORT THAT BGEN PEREZ EXPENDED IN FINDING AN ANSWER TO THE OVERFLIGHT, (b)(1), 1.4 (c) STATED THE CASE WAS CLOSED. (b)(1), 1.4 (c)

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)

3. ~~(C)~~ BGEN PEREZ DID NOT BELIEVE THE SHOOT DOWN OF THE TWO CIVILIAN PLANES WOULD IMPACT RELATIONS BETWEEN HIS COMMAND AND U.S. FORCES AT GUANTANAMO. THAT INCIDENT TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE OF HIS AREA OF INTEREST.

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)

LCOL SANCHEZ BRIEFED A 40 MINUTE PRESENTATION DEPICTING THE CUBAN GOVERNMENTS OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE SHOOT DOWN. HE ACCUSED THE **BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE** (BTTR) OF BEING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION AND EQUATED THEM WITH THE BOMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY FEDERAL BUILDING. HE ALSO ACCUSED THEM OF CONDUCTING TOXIC AND BIOLOGICAL ATTACKS ON CUBA. HE REITERATED THERE WERE 32 TERRITORIAL VIOLATIONS IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS. SANCHEZ ALSO NOTED THAT CUBAN PILOTS HAD WARNED THE BTTR AIRCRAFT PRIOR TO "PENETRATION OF CUBAN AIRSPACE" AND HAD MADE

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SEVERAL WARNING PASSES IN FRONT OF THE AIRCRAFT. (b)(1), 1.4 (c)

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)

SANCHEZ ALSO STATED THE THIRD AIRCRAFT WAS NOT ENGAGED, EVEN THOUGH THE CUBANS KNEW THE BTTR LEADER WAS ONBOARD, BECAUSE IT HAD DEPARTED CUBAN AIRSPACE. CONSIDERABLE EFFORT WAS MADE TO EXPLAIN THE LANGUAGE OF THEIR PILOTS DURING ENGAGEMENT WAS CONSISTENT WITH A PILOT SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING HIS MISSION; ALTHOUGH NOT CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE WOULD EXPECT IN NORMAL CONVERSATION. FINALLY, SANCHEZ SHARED THAT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT REGRETS THE BTTR BACKED BOTH COUNTRIES INTO THE CURRENT SITUATION, AND HIS GOVERNMENT DESIRED TO KEEP THE 2 MAY ACCORDS IN EFFECT.

A. ~~(C)~~ BGEN PEREZ'S DEMEANOR CHANGED PERCEPTIBLY DURING THE PRESENTATION. HE APPEARED ATTENTIVE DURING THE FIRST 15 MINUTES, THEN DISTRACTED AND FINALLY ANNOYED AS THE BRIEFING CONTINUED.

(b)(1), (b)(3): 10 USC 424

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~~SECRET~~

PAGE:0472

INQUIRE=DOC34D  
ITEM NO=00219075  
ENVELOPE

CDSN = CFS372 MCN = 96074/01155 TOR = 960740051  
OTTSZYUW RUEKDIA8215 0740050-~~SSSS~~--RUEALGX.  
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HEADER

O 121355Z MAR 96

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO RUEADWD/CSA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC  
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

RUWSMXI/USCINCPAC (b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

SCOTT AFB IL/ (b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC

MACDILL AFB FL

RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM (b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC

RUCBACM/USCINCOM NORFOLK VA

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

RUCNFB/FBI WASHINGTON DC

RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC

(b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

INFO RUEALGX/SAFE WASH DC

BT

CONTROLS

~~SECRET~~

SERIAL: (U) IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) CUBA (CU); FRANCE (FR).

//IPSP: (U)

SUBJ: FIR (b)(3):10 USC 424 CUBAN REACTION TO DOWNING OF CIVILIAN  
AIRCRAFT (U).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED  
INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~SECRET~~.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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DOI: (U) 960225.

REQ: (U)

SOURCE: (S)

(b)(3):10 USC 424

~~SECRET~~

Page 3 of 3 was  
denied in full and  
is not included.



~~SECRET~~

PAGE:0473

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

SUMMARY: ~~(S)~~ SENIOR CUBAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONSIDER VIOLATION OF CUBAN AIR SPACE BY TWO CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT AND SUBSEQUENT DOWNING BY CUBAN AIR FORCE AS SERIOUS INCIDENT MOTIVATED BY U.S. REPUBLICAN PARTY AND CUBAN-AMERICAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION. INCIDENT COINCIDES WITH DOMESTIC CUBAN OPPOSITION GROUPS PROTESTS.

TEXT (U)

1. ~~(S)~~ ACCORDING TO THE FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ISIDORO ((MALMIERCA)), AND THE SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, JUAN ((PADRON)), THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE VIOLATION OF CUBAN AIR SPACE BY TWO CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT FROM THE CUBAN EXILE ORGANIZATION BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE (BTTR) AS A VERY SERIOUS INCIDENT. THEY QUOTED UNIDENTIFIED CUBAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS STATING THAT THE PROVOCATION FOR THIS INCIDENT WAS MOUNTED BY THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CUBAN-AMERICAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION (CANF) IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE THE UPCOMING AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN AREAS OF LARGE HISPANIC CONCENTRATION, SUCH AS FLORIDA, TEXAS, AND CALIFORNIA. SUCH POLITICAL TACTICS, THEY BELIEVED, ARE BEING USED BY THE REPUBLICANS TO DISCREDIT PRESIDENT CLINTON'S FOREIGN POLICY WITH CUBA. THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT RESPECTS AND PREFERS PRESIDENT CLINTON BECAUSE OF HIS PERMISSIVE ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES WHICH ARE PERCEIVED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA AS A PRELUDE TO NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

2. ~~(S)~~

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ARE CONDEMNING CUBA'S ACTIONS IN SHOOTING DOWN THE TWO UNARMED CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, THE CONSENSUS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC), PARTICULARLY, (b)(1),1.4 (c) IS THAT THIS SHOULD NOT AFFECT ECONOMIC OR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE EC HAS OPTED NOT TO INTERFERE IN THIS CONFLICT AS THEY CONSIDER IT AN INTERNAL MATTER FOR THE U.S. DURING AN ELECTION YEAR. BASED ON THE INCIDENT, THE (b)(1),1.4 (c) GOVERNMENT HAS NOT AND WILL NOT RECONSIDER DELAYING OR STOPPING ECONOMIC TRADE WITH CUBA.

3. ~~(S)~~ AS A RESULT OF THE INCIDENT, PADRON STATED THAT MEMBERS OF THE CUBAN COUNCIL OF STATE MET ON 25 FEBRUARY 1996 TO ANALYZE THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION (NFI). THE INCIDENT COINCIDED WITH THE MEETING OF THE CUBAN OPPOSITION GROUP CONCILIO CUBANO (CC) TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. CUBAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR, ARISTIDES ((GOMEZ)), BANNED CC'S GATHERINGS AND PLANNED DEMONSTRATIONS AS A MEASURE TO PREVENT POSSIBLE ACTS OF VIOLENCE. CUBA'S REVOLUTIONARY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES WERE PLACED ON ALERT IN MOST OF THE MAJOR CITIES ON THE ISLAND. MORE THAN 52 MEMBERS OF THE CC WERE ARRESTED OR PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN ORDER TO PREVENT POSSIBLE GATHERINGS. THE CUBAN COUNCIL OF STATE AND THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE WERE DIVIDED REGARDING ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN ORDER TO CONTROL THE CC. THE CUBAN MILITARY HAS OBTAINED INFORMATION ON DISSIDENT GROUPS INFILTRATING THE ISLAND (NFI).

COMMENTS: (U)

1. ~~(S)~~

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

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HEADER:

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FM DIA WASHINGTON DC

(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

RUEAUSA/OCSA WASHINGTON DC

RUEAHOA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

RUCNFB/FBI WASHINGTON DC

RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC

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(b)(3):50 USC  
403-1(i)

RUEALGX/SAFE WASH DC

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CONTROLS:

~~SECRET~~

SERIAL: (U) IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424

BODY:

COUNTRY: (U) CUBA (CU)

SUBJ: IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424 CUBA'S POSITION ON DOWNING OF CIVILIAN  
AIRCRAFT (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY  
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~SECRET~~.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: 960325

REQ: (U)

SOURCE: ~~(S)~~

(b)(3):10 USC 424

SUMMARY: ~~(S)~~ CUBAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CLAIM THE TWO DOWNED  
BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE AIRCRAFT FLEW OVER CUBAN AIR SPACE ON 24  
FEB 96, THE MORNING OF THE INCIDENT. CONTRARY TO U.S. REPORTS,  
THE AIRCRAFT RECEIVED VERBAL WARNINGS TO ABANDON CUBAN TERRITORIAL  
AIR SPACE. FUTURE INCIDENTS WILL BE CONSIDERED AS A PROVOCATIVE  
ACT BY THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.

TEXT: 1. ~~(S)~~ IN MID-MARCH 1996,

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

STATED THE  
CUBAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE REPORTED THREE CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT FROM  
THE CUBAN EXILE ORGANIZATION--BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE (BTTR)--FLEW  
OVER CUBAN AIR SPACE ON 24 FEB 96, BETWEEN 1030 AND 1100 LOCAL

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TIME. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THAT CUBAN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS (CATC) REPEATEDLY WARNED THE AIRCRAFT TO ABANDON THE AREA, AS THEY WERE INVADING CUBAN AIR SPACE. CATC REPORTED THAT THE AIRCRAFT DEPARTED CUBAN AIR SPACE AROUND 1100. ALL THREE AIRCRAFT RETURNED TO OPA-LOCKA AIRPORT, MIAMI, FLORIDA FOR REFUELING. (b)(1),1.4 (c) FURTHER STATED THAT LATER IN THE AFTERNOON OF 24 FEBRUARY 96, THE SAME THREE BTTR AIRCRAFT RETURNED TO THE AREA, AND PURPOSELY ENTERED CUBAN AIR SPACE, DESPITE CATC WARNING. (b)(1),1.4 (c) SAID THAT SINCE FLYING OVER CUBAN AIR SPACE WAS PROVOCATIVE IN NATURE, THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT WAS FORCED TO SHOOT DOWN TWO OF THE AIRCRAFT.

2. (S) (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE COMMENTS ABOUT THE INCIDENT MADE BY THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS (UN), MADELINE ALBRIGHT, UNFOUNDED AND EXTREMELY OFFENSIVE. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THAT WHAT MS. ALBRIGHT FAILED TO MENTION WERE THE NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT (USG) BY CUBAN OFFICIALS REGARDING REPEATED BTTR AIR SPACE VIOLATIONS WITHOUT ANY HOSTILE INCIDENT IN RESPONSE FROM CUBA. HE SAID THAT BTTR HAS ALWAYS DISREGARDED THE NON-THREATENING WARNINGS BY CATC, AND FLOWN OVER CUBAN AIR SPACE TO DROP LEAFLETS. THE LACK OF LEGAL MEASURES BY THE USG TO DETER SUCH FLIGHTS FORCED THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT TO USE HOSTILE MEANS TO DEFEND ITS SOVEREIGNTY. ALTHOUGH THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT CLAIMS TO DEEPLY REGRET THE INCIDENT, (b)(1),1.4 (c) SUCH A VIOLENT REACTION WAS NECESSARY TO PREVENT FUTURE FLIGHTS BY BTTR OVER CUBAN TERRITORY.

(b)(1),1.4 (c) TWO OTHER ISSUES WERE NOT ADDRESSED AT THE UN-- BTTR'S FLIGHT PLAN FOR 25 FEB 96, AND THE QUICK DEPARTURE FROM THE AREA BY THE REMAINING BTTR AIRCRAFT. BTTR'S ORIGINAL FLIGHT PLAN HAD THE AIRCRAFT TRAVELING TO THE BAHAMAS FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS. (b)(1),1.4 (c) IF BTTR'S DESTINATION HAD BEEN THE BAHAMAS, THE AIRCRAFT SHOULD NOT HAVE CROSSED CUBAN AIR SPACE AT ANY TIME. IF BTTR WAS CERTAIN THAT IT DID NOT CROSS CUBAN AIR SPACE, THE LAST AIRCRAFT SHOULD HAVE CIRCLED THE AREA SEARCHING FOR SURVIVORS. INSTEAD, THE REMAINING BTTR AIRCRAFT LEFT THE AIR SPACE IMMEDIATELY. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THESE ISSUES CLEARLY INDICATE THAT BTTR WAS AWARE OF ITS EXACT LOCATION OVER CUBAN AIR SPACE. AS A RESULT OF THE INCIDENT, THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT HAS VOWED TO STOP FURTHER BTTR FLIGHTS AND WILL NOT HESITATE TO USE HOSTILE ACTION TO STOP ANY INTRUDER.

3. (S) (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT BTTR'S ROLE IS NOT HUMANITARIAN IN NATURE, BUT RATHER AN ORGANIZATION SUPPORTED BY THE REPUBLICAN PARTY TO DISCREDIT PRESIDENT CLINTON'S FOREIGN POLICY WITH CUBA. FURTHER, THAT BTTR'S ROLE IS TO ASSIST CUBAN RAFTERS TO REACH U.S. TERRITORY WITHOUT DETECTION FROM U.S. COAST GUARD VESSELS, AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FLOW OF CUBAN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS REACHING THE U.S. PADRON'S POINT IS THAT AN INCREASE OF ILLEGAL CUBAN IMMIGRANTS WILL SUBSEQUENTLY ASSIST THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN INFLUENCING THE 1996 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN FLORIDA, WHERE THERE IS A LARGE HISPANIC POPULATION. CUBAN OFFICIALS CONDEMNED BTTR'S ACTIONS BECAUSE THEY RESPECT PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PERMISSIVE ECONOMIC POLICY TOWARD THE ISLAND. THE CUBAN PEOPLE PERCEIVE CLINTON'S POLICY AS A PRELUDE TO NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

COMMENTS: 1. (U)

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i),1.4 (c)

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