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IN 112249

TCR:261948Z NOV 76

CIRA 31556

SECRET 261937Z NOV 76 STAFF

CITE [16-17] 31556

TO: DIRECTOR.

WMINTEL RYSAT MURDER KINSTONE

1. LOCAL PRESS FOR SEVERAL DAYS HAS CARRIED VARIOUS VERSIONS OF STATEMENTS BY HERNAN R I C A R D O 'S DEFENSE LAWYER, CARLA DEL S O L A R, THAT RICARDO WORKED FOR CIA AND WAS ON "INTELLIGENCE MISSION" AT TIME OF CUBANA BOMBING IN BARBADOS. ALSO CLAIMED THAT RICARDO IS VICTIM OF CONSPIRACY HEADED BY RICARDO M O R A L E S NAVARETTE, DISIP EMPLOYEE "WHO ALSO WORKED FOR THE CIA".

2. AS CAN BE SEEN FROM FOREGOING, HERNAN RICARDO'S DEFENSE IN TRIAL APPARENTLY WILL BE THAT HE WORKING FOR CIA AND THAT CIA, THROUGH MORALES NAVARETTE, FRAMED HIM WITH CUBANA BOMBING.

3. OUR CASE NOT HELPED BY ARTICLE IN 24 NOVEMBER ISSUE OF CARACAS DAILY JOURNAL, ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, WHICH STATES:

"U.S. EMBASSY SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE CHARGES THAT RICARDO WAS EMPLOYED BY THE CIA. "WE NEVER COMMENT ON ANYONE WORKING FOR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES", AN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID."

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SPOKESMAN IN THIS INSTANCE WAS EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE
YALE NEWMAN. COS PROTESTED TO AMBASSADOR WHO SAID NEWMAN WAS
MISQUOTED, THAT ALL NEWMAN SAID WAS, "WE NEVER COMMENT ON MATTERS
LIKE THAT". AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO INSTRUCTED NEWMAN IF APPROACHED
AGAIN ON THIS SUBJECT TO REPLY THAT OFFICIAL EMBASSY HAS NO
COMMENT BUT THAT "OFF THE RECORD" THE USG HAS NEVER HAD ANY
RELATIONSHIP WHATSOEVER WITH HERNAN RICARDO.

4. JOANNE CHAMBERLAIN OF WASHINGTON POST IS IN CARACAS AND
IN TOUCH WITH BOTH NEWMAN AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR. SHE HAS
COMPLAINED THAT ALL LEADS IN "MINI-WATERGATE CASE", BOTH HERE
AND IN MIAMI, HAVE DRIED UP AND SHE RETURNING TO U.S. ON
27 NOVEMBER. ONLY NEW INFORMATION SHE HAS BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP
IS THAT VENEZUELANAS ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE KILLED MORALES
NAVARETTE (OUR INFO SUGGESTS HE IS EITHER IN LONDON, OR MORE
LIKELY COSTA RICA). BELIEVE OUR BIGGEST PROBLEM WILL COME WHEN
MORALES NAVARETTE APPEARS IN MIAMI, AS WE FEEL SURE HE EVENTUALLY
WILL, AND GIVES HIS VERSION OF EVENTS TO MEDIA CONTACTS. IN THIS
CONNECTION, [02]TANGO-1 TOLD [02]COS AND [02]BRADSPIES THAT WHEN MORALES
LEFT VENEZUELA HE TOLD [01]KSCARLET OFFICIALS "SOMEDAY I'LL COME
BACK AND KNOCK ON YOUR DOOR" TO WHICH [02]TANGO-1 REPLIED "PLEASE

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GIVE US A PHONE CALL BEFORE YOU DO.

5. FILE: [75]-122-102, E2, IMPDET.

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