

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 HAVANA 07222 132125Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----025650 132128Z /14

O R 132045Z AUG 79  
FM USINT HAVANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1188  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

S E C R E T HAVANA 7222

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLED AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 12065: XDS-3 8/13/99 (SMITH, WAYNE S.) OR-M  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, CU, NU  
SUBJECT: APPROACH TO CUBANS ON PRESENCE IN NICARAGUA

REF: STATE 210793

1. (S-ENTIRE TEXT)
2. I HAVE ASKED FOR APPOINTMENT WITH VIERA AND HOPE IT WILL BE GRANTED NEXT DAY OR TWO. IF NOT, I WILL RAISE WITH SOMEONE ELSE IN MINREX.
3. I WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT CUBAN RESPONSE WILL BE TO DENY THERE IS ANY SIGNIFICANT CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN NICARAGUA. DEMARCHE WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF I WERE IN POSITION TO REFUTE THIS WITH ONE OR TWO SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF A LARGER CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE. PERHAPS INR COULD SUPPLY IN TIME FOR CALL ON VIERA.
4. IN CONVERSATION WITH MINREX OFFICIAL AT THIRD-COUNTRY RECEPTION AUG 9, I MENTIONED SOME CONCERN IN US OVER

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CUBA'S MILITARY ROLE IN NICARAGUA. CUBAN OFFICIAL SAID THIS SIMPLY ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF EXAGGERATED US INTELLIGENCE REPORTS. EARLIER REPORTS HAD SUGGESTED MASSIVE CUBAN SHIPMENTS OF ARMS TO NICARAGUA. NOW THAT SANDINISTAS WERE IN POWER, HE WENT ON, LOGICAL QUESTION WAS "WHERE HAVE ALL THOSE ARMS GONE?" RATHER THAN BEING WELL-ARMED WITH CUBAN WEAPONS, AS ONE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED,

SANDINISTAS APPARENTLY WERE SO SHORT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT OF ALL KINDS THAT THEY WERE ASKING US AND EVERYONE ELSE IN HEMISPHERE FOR HELP.

5. I COUNTERED THAT WHATEVER THE DEGREE, THERE WAS NO DOUBT CUBANS HAD HELPED SANDINISTAS, BUT THAT AS PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT MADE CLEAR, US UNDERSTOOD FULLY THAT MAJOR FACTOR IN SOMOZA OVERTHROW WAS FACT THAT HE HAD LOST SUPPORT OF PEOPLE.

6. ANTICIPATING THAT VIERA MAY TAKE SAME LINE AS LOWER-RANKING MINREX OFFICIAL AND SUGGEST THAT REPORTS OF GROWING PRESENCE ARE NO MORE RELIABLE THAN WERE THOSE OF MASSIVE SHIPMENTS OF ARMS, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE SOMETHING NEW AND SPECIFIC TO BACK UP THOSE EARLIER REPORTS. HAS EMBASSY NICARAGUA SEEN LARGE QUANTITIES OF SPECIFIC ITEMS I COULD REFER TO, SUCH AS SOVIET ROCKET LAUNCHERS, MACHINE GUNS, ETC.? OR DOES INR HAVE SOMETHING HARD I COULD USE IN DEMARCHE?  
SMITH

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEMARCHE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 aug 1979  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, MILI, MASS, CU, NU, US  
**To:** STATE MANAGUA  
**Type:** TE  
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