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TITLE SUBJECT: 08 MARCH 1993 MEETING OF THE NBRF STEERING
COMMITTEE

- GFTA-90-8001 (b)(7) (SEP-549)
- NORTHERN BORDER RESPONSE FORCE

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TEXT:

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COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: 08 MARCH 1993 MEETING OF THE NBRF STEERING

- COMMITTEE
- GFTA-90-8001 (b)(7) (SEP-549)
- NORTHERN BORDER RESPONSE FORCE

1. ON 08 MARCH 1993, THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE
NORTHERN BORDER RESPONSE FORCE (NBRF) MET AT THE U.S.
EMBASSY-MEXICO. AMONG THE DISCUSSION TOPICS ON THE
COMMITTEE'S AGENDA WERE THE FOLLOWING:

- RECENT NBRF ACTIVITIES
- MEETING AT CENDRO ON THE UH-LH HELICOPTERS
- PERSONNEL CHANGES AT THE PGR
- RE-EMPHASIS OF GOM-PGR CRITERIA FOR OVERFLIGHT
- AUTHORIZATION REQUESTS

2. THE CHIEF OF THE EMBASSY'S INFORMATION ANALYSIS
CENTER (IAC) REPORTED THAT THE ONLY SUSPECT AIR TRACK
ACTIVITY WITHIN THE PAST SEVEN DAYS OCCURRED ON SATURDAY
06 MARCH 1993. A SUSPECT TOI ORIGINATING IN THE
VICINITY OF CALI, COLOMBIA, HAS DETECTED BY D AND M
ASSETS IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN. THE SUSPECT
AIRCRAFT HAS VISUALLY IDENTIFIED AS A TWIN-ENGINE
LOW-WING AIRCRAFT AS IT HAS TRACKED NORTHBOUND OFF THE
PACIFIC COAST OF CENTRAL AMERICA. THE SUSPECT AIRCRAFT

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SAR-C-15-0240

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REPORTEDLY ENTERED GUATEMALAN AIR SPACE BEFORE ALLEGEDLY CONDUCTING A NIGHTTIME INLAND AIRDROP IN N.W. GUATEMALA. (APPROX 53 NM S.E. OF TAPACHULA, CHIAPAS.) OPERATION CADENCE HAS NOTIFIED OF THE SUSPECT AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY BUT AS YET NO SEIZURES OR ARRESTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

3. THE NBRF MANAGER INFORMED THE COMMITTEE THAT BASED UPON CURRENT INTELLIGENCE, THE RECENT LACK OF SUSPECT AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY IN THE MEXICO AREA OF OPERATIONS COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

- THE DETERRENT EFFECT OF NBRF INTERDICTION SUCCESSES.
- THE SWITCH BY COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS TO MARITIME SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES.
- THE DISRUPTIVE EFFECT (ON TRAFFICKERS) OF THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO APPREHEND PABLO ESCOBAR.
- THE IMPACT OF F.I.S.T INVESTIGATIONS ON COLOMBIAN/MEXICAN SMUGGLING ORGANIZATIONS.

4. THE NBRF MANAGER ALSO REPORTED THAT DURING THE AFOREMENTIONED SUSPECT AIR ACTIVITY ON 06 MARCH, IAC PERSONNEL WERE ONCE AGAIN DISTRACTED BY NUMEROUS COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING GOM DENIAL OF OVERFLIGHT AUTHORIZATION FOR AN AIRBORNE RADAR PLATFORM INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION. IN ALMOST ALL CASES OTHER THAN THOSE INVOLVING EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GOM WILL ONLY GRANT OVERFLIGHT AUTHORIZATION REQUESTS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS FOR USG D AND M AIRCRAFT MEETING THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- THE USG AIRCRAFT HAS A RADAR "LOCK" ON THE SUSPECT AIRCRAFT.
- IF GRANTED, ONLY ONE AIRCRAFT WITH A RADAR "LOCK" WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER MEXICAN AIRSPACE.

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- ONCE GRANTED, THE USG AIRCRAFT WILL REMAIN IN
- MEXICAN AIRSPACE ONLY UNTIL THE SUSPECT AIRCRAFT
- HAS BEEN "HANDED OFF" OR ACQUIRED BY IN-COUNTRY NBRF
- ASSETS (AT WHICH TIME THE NON-NBRF AIRCRAFT WILL EXIT
- MEXICAN AIRSPACE VIA THE MOST DIRECT ROUTE POSSIBLE).

AGAIN, IT CANNOT BE OVER-EMPHASIZED THAT THE GRANTING OF OVERFLIGHT REQUESTS BY THE GOM IS AN INFORMAL (AND THEREFORE UNWRITTEN) AGREEMENT WHICH CONTINUES TO BE A POLITICALLY SENSITIVE ISSUE. THEREFORE, SO AS NOT TO JEOPARDIZE THE FUTURE BENEFITS OF GOM OVERFLIGHT AUTHORIZATIONS, THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY THE ABOVE OVERFLIGHT CRITERIA AS PROMULGATED BY THE GOM AND WILL NOT PRESENT OVERFLIGHT REQUESTS FOR USG AIRCRAFT THAT DO NOT MEET THE PRE-ESTABLISHED CRITERIA. WE ARE ALL INTERESTED IN ACHIEVING INTERDICTION SUCCESSES, HOWEVER, AGENCIES AND COMMANDS CONTROLLING D AND M ASSETS MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THE IN-COUNTRY NBRF TEAM DOES NOT WANT TO OFFEND THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES OF THEIR GOM COUNTERPARTS BY CONTINUALLY REQUESTING OVERFLIGHT AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USG TRACKING AIRCRAFT WHICH DO NOT MEET THE PREESTABLISHED CRITERIA NECESSARY FOR THE PRESENTATION OF AN OVERFLIGHT REQUEST.

5. THE NBRF MANAGER ALSO REPORTED ON THE POSITIVE RESULTS ACHIEVED DURING THE BILATERAL NBRF STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD WITH CENDRO DIRECTOR GENERAL (b)(7)(C) ON 02 AND 04 MARCH 1993. AS A RESULT OF THE BILATERAL MEETINGS, OPERATIONAL AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE PGR'S UH-LH HELICOPTERS WERE IDENTIFIED AND ASSIGNED A SUSPENSE DATE FOR TASK COMPLETION.

6. THE NBRF MANAGER ALSO REPORTED THAT THE PGR HAS REVISED ITS THINKING ON THE SITE LOCATION OF FUTURE MOBILE INTERDICTION PODS. ING. (b)(7)(C) THE PGR'S NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERCEPTION, HAS STATED THAT THE PGR INTENDS TO LOCATE FUTURE UH-LH MOBILE INTERDICTION POD'S AT EXISTING AIRPORTS OPERATED AND

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CONTROLLED BY THE GOM. ACCORDING TO ING (b)(7)(C)
THIS PLAN WILL FREE THE PGR FROM THE BURDEN OF
DEVELOPING AN EXTENSIVE SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR EACH
POD. HAVING THE "MOBILE" PODS CO-LOCATED AT EXISTING
AIRPORTS WILL ALLOW THE PGR TO UTILIZE LODGING,
RESTAURANT, FUEL AND SECURITY FACILITIES/RESOURCES THAT
ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE FOR USE.

7. THE POLITICAL SLCTION REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED THE
COMMITTEE OF SEVERAL RECENT PERSONNEL CHANGES AT THE
PGR. THE CHANGES WERE ATTRIBUTED TO NORMAL IN-HOUSE
RESHUFFLING FOLLOWING THE RECENT APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW
MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL.

8. SEVERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN
OVER THE RESIGNATION AND REPLACEMNT OF THE PGR'S FORMER
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AIR SERVICES (b)(7)(C) SINCE
THE RECENT APPOINTMENT OF (b)(7)(C) SUCCESSOR (b)(7)(C)
(b)(7)(C) THE OPRATIONAL READINESS OF THE PGR'S
ROTRY AND FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT HAS REPORTEDLY DECLINED
TO LESS THAN FIFTY PERCENT. THE IN-COUNTRY NBR TEAM
WILL CLOSELY MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF THE PGR'S
DIRECTORATE OF AIR SERVICES WHILE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
(b)(7)(C)

9. ANY COMMENTS OR INQUIRIES REGARDING THE CONTENTS OF
THIS CABLE MESSAGE CAN BE DIRECTED TO ASSISTANT COUNTRY
ATTACHE (b)(7)(C), (b) OR SA NBRF COORDINATOR (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(F)
AT THE PEA MEXICO CITY COUNTRY OFFICE, TELEPHONE
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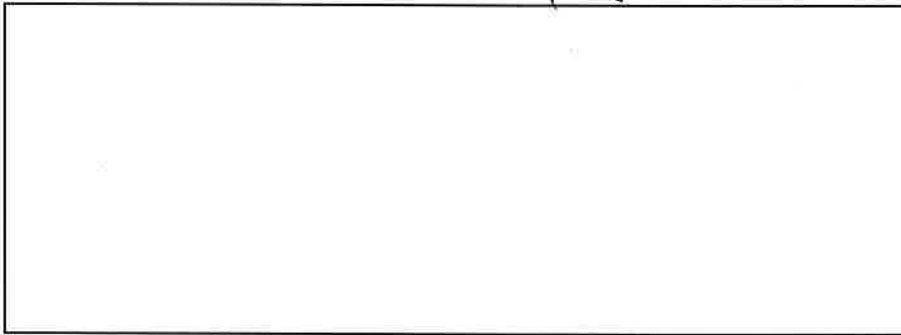
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 RUANJTF/CJTF FOUR IMMEDIATE
 RUWANGD/CJTF FIVE IMMEDIATE
 RUWANTX/CJTF SIX IMMEDIATE
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 RUEADWW/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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 RHEHOND/DIRONDFC WASHDC//OR// IMMEDIATE
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 RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 1439
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 RUEHYM/AMCONSUL MONTERREY IMMEDIATE 9525
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