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ERP: 2, 1, 1, 1, 1

STAFF

ACTION: IMS/ESG (020) INFO: CIC/CEG, CIC/CEGLA, CIC/LA, DO/IRO, IMDORECORD, LA/FIG, LA/FIGSC, LIMITED, MDSX, ODPD, ORMS/LA, FILE, C/LA (3/W)

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TOR: 061908Z FEB 98 [ ] 55099

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TO: PRIORITY DIRECTOR.

FOR: LIMITED DISSEM IMS/ESG INFO DO/IRO, CHIEF/LA, LA/FIG, LA/FIGSC, CIC/LA

SLUGS: WNINTEL

SUBJECT: CONTINUED PROTECTION OF OUR USE OF [ ]

REF: DIRECTOR 674771 98 0430861

TEXT:

1. ACTION REQUIRED: NONE, FYI ONLY AND IN RESPONSE TO REF.

2. THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION WHICH OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZES THE FACT OF [ ] WILL BE A DELICATE ISSUE ACROSS THE DDO, AND \*--ALTHOUGH DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS IN THE <JFK ASSASSINATION> RECORDS REVIEW BOARD (ARRB) ARE LIMITED TO ONLY FOUR COUNTRIES-- THE WORLD-WIDE USE OF [ ] MEANS THE IMPLICATIONS WILL BE WIDELY FELT. IN THIS SENSE IT IS ALMOST SELF-DEFEATING TO ARGUE FROM FOUR SPECIFIC CASES [ ] MEXICO CITY, AND [ ] AND EXTRAPOLATE FOR THE WHOLE DDO. NEVERTHELESS, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO RESPOND TO REF FROM THE [ ] PERSPECTIVE.

3. OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF CIA USE OF [ ] IN [ ] WILL PREJUDICE UNILATERAL OFFICERS' [ ] AND ACTIVITY, WHICH --AS IN MOST STATIONS-- IS THE [ ] AND ACTIVITY WHICH MATTERS THE MOST IN THAT THESE OFFICERS TEND TO HANDLE THE MOST SENSITIVE [ ] OUR UNILATERAL OFFICERS ALSO HANDLE [ ] OFFICERS. THUS BY DEFINITION THE UNILATERAL ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT BY THESE OFFICERS IS NON-COMPATIBLE, AND WOULD CAUSE DAMAGE TO STATION'S RELATIONS WITH OUR VARIOUS [ ] CURRENTLY, STATION IS ENJOYING A PERIOD WHEREIN --AS A RESULT OF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S VISIT HERE IN LATE 1997, AND THE [ ] VISIT TO HEADQUARTERS IN NOV 97-- [ ] HAS DECIDED TO RE-ORIENT ITS ACTIVITIES AWAY FROM SMALL [ ] RELATIONSHIPS IT HAS WITH VARIOUS [ ] TOWARDS CIA. THIS STRATEGIC SHIFT, WHICH COULD HAVE LONG-TERM BENEFITS FOR CIA, WILL BE DASHED WHEN [ ] WE RUN NON-COMPATIBLE OPERATIONS [ ] THE TRUST THAT TAKES AN

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ENDLESS NUMBER OF MEETINGS TO BUILD WILL BE GONE WITH THE FIRST PUBLICATION LOCALLY CONFIRMING OUR USE OF [REDACTED]

4. MOREOVER, BILATERAL U.S. [REDACTED] RELATIONS HAVE NEVER BEEN CLOSER; THESE WOULD BE TARNISHED, NOT IRREPARABLY BY ANY MEANS BUT UNNECESSARILY, BY OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF CIA USE [REDACTED] HISTORICALLY RELATIONS WITH [REDACTED] HAVE BEEN STRAINED, AND IT IS ONLY DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS THAT A NEW PRESIDENT AND HIS BOLD FREE-MARKET REFORMS HAVE PUSHED [REDACTED] SQUARELY INTO THE DEMOCRATIC ORBIT. CURIOUSLY, THE CLOSE POLITICAL RELATIONS AND OUR STEADILY-IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH [REDACTED] MEANS THAT BOTH PARTIES - EMBASSY DIPLOMATS AND SENIOR [REDACTED] OFFICERS-- WONDER WHY WE NEED TO [REDACTED] IF WE CAN GET VIRTUALLY ANYTHING WE ASK FOR FROM [REDACTED] OR FROM [REDACTED] OFFICIALS. INDEED, IN THIS RELATIVELY OPEN, COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT, AN INDICATION THAT STATION WAS WORKING ON INCOMPATIBLE LOCAL TARGETS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY DAMAGING.

5. AT THE RISK OF BORING THE READER WITH DETAIL, EMBASSY [REDACTED] IS SO OPEN A WORKPLACE THAT THERE IS NO REAL CLEARED ACCESS AREA (CAA), BUT RATHER A "HYBRID" CAA, TO USE THE RSO'S PHRASE. THIS MEANS THAT FSN'S HAVE LONG HAD OFFICES ON THE THIRD FLOOR, WHERE THE \* <EXECUTIVE> OFFICES AND REPORTING OFFICES (INCLUDING STATION) ARE LOCATED. NEEDLESS TO SAY, STATION IS NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THE CONFIGURATION OF OFFICES [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN THIS ENVIRONMENT, WHERE EMBASSY OFFICERS DO NOT HAVE A FULL APPRECIATION OF THE ROLE/NEED FOR INTELLIGENCE IN SUCH AN OPEN, FRIENDLY SOCIETY, OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF CIA'S USE [REDACTED] WOULD ONLY REAFFIRM THEIR POINT OF VIEW. OUR FEW [REDACTED] WOULD ESSENTIALLY THEN BE DECLARED. STATION WOULD HAVE TO ATTEMPT TO CHANGE OUR [REDACTED] PROFILE BY OBTAINING MORE [REDACTED] OFFICERS WHILE REDUCING THE NUMBER [REDACTED] AS HEADQUARTERS IS AWARE, UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES THERE ARE FEW [REDACTED] AND THE SELECTION AND TRAINING OF NEW ONES TAKES YEARS AND IS EXPENSIVE. IN THIS SCENARIO, [REDACTED] WOULD NEVER RECEIVE ENOUGH PRIORITY TO WARRANT SENDING THREE [REDACTED] TO REPLACE THE THREE [REDACTED] SLOTS WE CURRENTLY HAVE. THE END RESULT WOULD BE THAT WE WOULD COLLECT VERY LITTLE INTELLIGENCE ON MAJOR PORTIONS OF OUR OPERATING DIRECTIVE (OD). SPECIFICALLY, INTERNAL POLITICAL REPORTING, WHICH IS A FIRST PRIORITY OBJECTIVE, WOULD BE ZEROED OUT, AND REPORTING ON THE WP AND ES TARGETS, BOTH SECOND PRIORITY OBJECTIVES, WOULD BE NON-EXISTENT. THIS WOULD BE A SERIOUS LOSS TO THE USG, SINCE OUR WP REPORTING HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN THE ONLY MEANS OF LEARNING TO WHAT EXTENT THE [REDACTED] ARE RESPECTING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND NOT REBUILDING THEIR MISSILE PROGRAM. ON THE ES TARGET, WE WOULD LOSE SIGNIFICANT REPORTING ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND THE IMPACT OF THE ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS IN THE AMERICAS. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, HOWEVER, WE WOULD LOSE THE TRUST OF [REDACTED] GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OF SOME SENIOR [REDACTED] OFFICIALS, WITH THE PREDICTABLE RESULT THAT IT WOULD TAKE YEARS TO REBUILD THE RELATIONSHIP.

6. IN TERMS OF A SECURITY THREAT, [REDACTED] REMAINS THE ONLY CAPITAL IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE THAT HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF TWO HIZBALLAH BOMBINGS, KILLING HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE. A TERRORIST INFRASTRUCTURE EXISTS IN THE TRI-BORDER AREA OF [REDACTED]

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OR THREE TIMES PER YEAR STATION OBTAINS REPORTING OF ANOTHER THREAT ON LOCAL JEWISH OR U.S. INTERESTS, INCLUDING THIS EMBASSY. IN THIS ENVIRONMENT, PUBLICATION OF CIA USE OF [REDACTED] MIGHT ENDANGER PEOPLES' LIVES, SPECIFICALLY STATION OFFICERS'. HAMAS, GAMA'AT AL ISLAMIYAH, AND HIZBALLAH ARE ALL ACTIVE LOCALLY. IN ADDITION, [REDACTED] AN ARAB POPULATION OF OVER 700,000. IN THE DIPLOMATIC WORLD, THE CUBAN EMBASSY IS LARGE AND ACTIVE; WE ARE CERTAIN THEY WOULD SEEK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY [REDACTED] GAPS. STATION HAS NOT HAD ANY SIGNIFICANT [REDACTED] GAPS IN THE PAST, AND THUS ANY ONE OF THIS MAGNITUDE WOULD HAVE A LARGE IMPACT.

7. STATION HOPES THE ABOVE IS USEFUL IN MARSHALING ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE PUBLICATION OF THE ARRB RECORDS.

8. FILE: NONE. DECL ON: X1. CL REASON: 1.5(C) CL BY: 0705909  
DRV HUM 4-82.

END OF MESSAGE

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