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From: svcsmartmfi
Sent: 7/14/2009 7:30:15 PM
To: SMART Core

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USC 424
Subject: [redacted] ARTICLE IN HONDURAN DAILY ALLEGES DRUG FLIGHTS HAVE STOPPED SINCE ZELAYA'S REMOVAL, BUT THIS IS UNTRUE (C)

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MRN: (b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)
Date/DTG: Jul 14, 2009 / 142105Z JUL 09
From: (b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)
Action: DIA WASHINGTON DC, ROUTINE
TAGS: (b)(3):10 USC 424
Captions: ~~NOFORN~~
Subject: [redacted] ARTICLE IN HONDURAN DAILY ALLEGES DRUG FLIGHTS HAVE STOPPED SINCE ZELAYA'S REMOVAL, BUT THIS IS UNTRUE (C)

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(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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(b)(3):10
USC 424,
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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC/ [redacted]

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(b)(3):10
USC 424,
(b)(3):50
USC 3024
(i)

PAGE 3 [redacted]

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(b)(3):10 USC 424

COUNTRY: (U) HONDURAS (HND); VENEZUELA (VEN).

(b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(3):10 USC 424 ARTICLE IN HONDURAN DAILY ALLEGES DRUG
FLIGHTS HAVE STOPPED SINCE ZELAYA'S REMOVAL, BUT THIS IS UNTRUE (C)

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

PAGE 4 [redacted]

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DOI: (U) 20090712.

REQS: (u) (b)(3):10 USC 424

SOURCE:

SOURCE A.

1. (U) DESCRIPTION --//OPEN SOURCE//OPEN SOURCE. EL HERALDO. DATE OF
SOURCE: 20090712.

2. (U) CONTEXT STATEMENT -- EL HERALDO IS CONSIDERED A CONSERVATIVE
DAILY NATIONAL NEWSPAPER, IN SPANISH.

SUMMARY: (U) SEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, TEXT PARAGRAPH 1, BELOW.
ENCLOSURES

TEXT: 1. (U) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. REPORT FORWARDS OPEN SOURCE NEWSPAPER
FROM EL HERALDO, A DAILY NEWSPAPER IN HONDURAS. ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT
SINCE THE REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT MANUEL ((ZELAYA)) ROSALES ON 28 JUNE
2009, DRUG FLIGHTS TO HONDURAS HAVE STOPPED. ENCLOSURE.

PAGE 5 [redacted]

2. (U) REPORT FORWARDS OPEN SOURCE NEWSPAPER FROM EL HERALDO, A
DAILY NEWSPAPER IN HONDURAS. ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT SINCE THE REMOVAL
OF PRESIDENT MANUEL ((ZELAYA)) ROSALES ON 28 JUNE 2009, DRUG FLIGHTS
TO HONDURAS HAVE STOPPED.

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ARTICLE IS IN SPANISH BUT TRANSLATED
UNOFFICIAL VERSION IN ENGLISH IS BELOW.

3. (U) UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATED TEXT OF ARTICLE AS FOLLOWS.

4. (U) TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS -- DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS
YEAR, A TOTAL OF 14 SMALL AIRPLANES, MOST WITH VENEZUELAN
REGISTRATION, ENTERED THE COUNTRY.

(b)(3):10 USC
424,(b)(3):50
USC 3024(i)

(b)(3):10 USC
424,(b)(3):50
USC 3024(i)

(b)(3):10 USC
424,(b)(3):50
USC 3024(i)

SOME OF THEM WERE INCINERATED AFTER THOUSANDS OF KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE OR -- ACCORDING TO SUSPICIONS RAISED BY INVESTIGATIONS -- PACKAGES OF DOLLARS WERE REMOVED FROM THEM.

FOLLOWING THE EVENTS OF 28 JUNE, WHEN PRESIDENT MANUEL ZELAYA WAS

(b)(3):10 USC
424,(b)(3):50
USC 3024(i)

PAGE 6 [REDACTED] ~~SECRET/NOFORN~~
DEPOSED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS AND EXPELLED TO COSTA RICA, NOT A SINGLE SMALL AIRPLANE CARRYING DRUGS OR DOLLARS HAS ENTERED THE COUNTRY.

SOME LOCAL POLITICIANS, INTERNATIONAL ANALYSTS, EVEN U.S. POLITICIANS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THERE IS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DRUG LORDS AND OFFICIALS FROM THE PREVIOUS HONDURAN ADMINISTRATION. A U.S. CONGRESSMAN HAS EVEN ASKED HIS PRESIDENT TO HAVE THE INVESTIGATIVE BODIES THE ISSUE OF DRUG TRAFFICKING NETWORKS IN HONDURAS AND POSSIBLE TIES TO LOCAL POLITICIANS.

--ON THE PATH TO A NARCO STATE.

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER RAMON CUSTODIO, ONE OF THE BEST INFORMED AUTHORITIES IN THE COUNTRY, FROM THE BEGINNING OF 2008 HAD BEEN WARNING OF THE DANGERS OF HONDURAS BECOMING A --NARCO STATE-- DUE TO THE FAST PACE AT WHICH THIS ACTIVITY HAD INCREASED IN THE COUNTRY OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. MOREOVER, ON 07 JUNE 2008, CUSTODIO WARNED THAT THE REFORM OF THE POLICE ORGANIC LAW WOULD CONSOLIDATE THE --NARCO STATE--, BECAUSE THE LAW GIVES FULL POWERS TO

(b)(3):10 USC
424,(b)(3):50
USC 3024(i)

PAGE 7 [REDACTED] ~~SECRET/NOFORN~~
THE GENERAL POLICE DIRECTORS, AND IN THAT CASE (QUOTE) THIS COUNTRY MUST PREPARE TO SEE WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN, (END QUOTE) HE SAID.

CUSTODIO ASKED FORMER PRESIDENT ZELAYA TO CONDUCT A PURGE OF THE POLICE, BECAUSE WITH THIS LAW, THERE ARE POLICEMEN WHO HAVE TIES TO THREE CARTELS.

TIME IS GRADUALLY PROVING THAT CUSTODIO WAS RIGHT. PROOF OF THIS IS THAT ON 11 JULY THE POLICE CAPTURED 10 POLICEMEN IN LA MOSQUITIA, AMONG THEM TWO CHIEF OF THE INVESTIGATIVE POLICE, WITH 142 KG OF COCAINE. ACCORDING TO THE ANTI-NARCOTICS AUTHORITIES, THEY WERE SENT BY ONE OF THE POLICE DIRECTORS.

IN ONE OF HIS REPORTS, THE COMMISSIONER INSISTED THAT THE DRUGS PASS THROUGH HONDURAS WITHOUT A TRACE. THE REDUCTION OF SEIZURES DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE DRUGS NO LONGER PASS THROUGH HONDURAN TERRITORY; (QUOTE) ON THE CONTRARY, THE DRUGS PASS THROUGH WITHOUT A TRACE, BUT THEY LEAVE POCKETS FULL. (END QUOTE)

--DRUG STORM

(b)(3):10 USC
424,(b)(3):50
USC 3024(i)

PAGE 8 [REDACTED] ~~SECRET/NOFORN~~
BETWEEN 28 JANUARY AND 15 JUNE ALONE, THE DIRECTORATE FOR THE STRUGGLE AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING (DLCN) REPORTED THAT 14 --NARCO AIRPLANES -- LANDED IN THE COUNTRY, MOST OF THEM WITH VENEZUELAN REGISTRATIONS.

THE TRANSIT OF THESE AIRCRAFT LOADED WITH DRUGS WAS GRADUALLY INCREASING AS THE DEPOSED PRESIDENT FOCUSED HIS EFFORTS ON CONDUCTING A POLL TO ABOLISH THE CONSTITUTION AND THUS BE ABLE TO SEEK RELECTION. IN JUNE ALONE, FIVE AIRCRAFT WERE NABBED. FROM FIVE OF THE 14 --NARCO AIRPLANES -- DISCOVERED THIS YEAR, THE DLCN SEIZED 3,988 KG OF COCAINE. THE REMAINING AIRPLANES WERE FOUND EMPTY AND SOME WERE COMPLETELY INCINERATED.

THE SMALL AIRPLANES HAD BEEN LANDING ON THE COUNTRYS ATLANTIC COAST IN ATLANTIDA, COLON, GRACIAS A DIOS, AND ISLAS DE LA BAHIA DEPARTMENTS.

OTHER SMALL AIRPLANES ALSO LANDED IN OLANCHO DEPARTMENT. THEY WOULD LAND ON CLANDESTINE LANDING STRIPS OR ON HIGHWAYS, FOR WHICH THEIR QQQQ CONTACTS IN HONDURAS PLACED PORTABLE ILLUMINATION TO GUIDE THE PILOTS.

SOURCES CONSULTED BY EL HERALDO REVEALED THAT ONE OF THE AREAS WHERE THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS HAVE GREATER CONTROL IS GRACIAS A DIOS DEPARTMENT, WHERE IT HAS BEEN PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FIGHT AGAINST THIS SCOURGE.

THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS WOULD THROW THE DRUGS FROM THE AIR, AND BELOW THEY WOULD BE COLLECTED BY THEIR CONTACTS WHO IMMEDIATELY HID THEM. THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY AN ENTIRE PROCESS OF INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION OF THE DRUGS AS THEY MADE THEIR WAY TO THE UNITED STATES.

ACCORDING TO ESTIMATES, IN JUNGLE AREAS THERE ARE TONS OF DRUGS IN

(b)(3):10 USC
424,(b)(3):50
USC 3024(i)

PAGE 4 [REDACTED] ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~
THE HANDS OF REGIONAL DRUG LORDS OR THE GENERAL POPULATION. THIS SITUATION COULD CAUSE A CONFLICT IN THE AREA, WHAT WITH FIGHTS TO CLAIM THE ILLEGAL PRODUCTS. THE PROBLEM IS ALSO THAT THESE GANGS HAVE BETTER LOGISTICS THAN THE REGIONAL AUTHORITIES. THE SITUATION IS BEING EXAMINED.

THE INVESTIGATIVE BODIES ARE SUSPICIOUS THAT OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS, FOLLOWING ZELAYA'S EXPULSION, NO OTHER AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN NABBED IN HONDURAN TERRITORY. REGARDING THIS ISSUE, DLCN DIRECTOR ARISTIDES GONZALEZ SAID-- (QUOTE) I DO NOT WANT TO MENTION THAT BECAUSE IT WOULD BE HASTY ON MY PART. HOWEVER, THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE OBSERVED, THERE HAVE NOT BEEN MANY FLIGHTS. WE ARE GOING TO EXAMINE THIS AND REACH CONCLUSIONS. (END QUOTE)

RECENTLY, FORMER HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER ENRIQUE ORTEZ COLINDRES HINTED PUBLICLY THAT THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT THE ZELAYA ADMINISTRATION WAS INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING. MEANWHILE, TELEMUNDO NETWORK JOURNALIST PEDRO CEVCEC SAID PUBLICLY THAT A VERY TRUSTWORTHY SOURCE TOLD HIM THAT THERE WERE INDIVIDUALS IN THE ZELAYA ADMINISTRATION WHO HAD TIES TO COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN DRUG

(b)(3):10 USC
424,(b)(3):50
USC 3024(i)

PAGE 5 [REDACTED] ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~
TRAFFICKERS.

IN ONE OF HIS REPORTS CEVCEC SAID-- (QUOTE) THERE ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE LINKED HECTOR ZELAYA, SON OF DEPOSED HONDURAN PRESIDENT MANUEL ZELAYA, WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING GANGS. (END QUOTE) HE ADDED -- (QUOTE)

ONE INVESTIGATION HAS ESTABLISHED THAT THERE MIGHT BE TIES BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS IN ZELAYA'S CABINET AND DRUG TRAFFICKING GROUPS. (END QUOTE)

THE FIGURES -- 4,000.

THE LAST SMALL AIRCRAFT THAT LANDED AND WAS FOUND INCINERATED MIGHT HAVE BROUGHT APPROXIMATELY 4,000 KG OF COCAINE INTO THE COUNTRY.

CHRONOLOGY -- 28 JANUARY 09 THE FIRST SMALL AIRPLANE WITH 1,500 KG OF COCAINE ENTERED THE COUNTRY.

12 JUNE 09 SMALL AIRPLANE DROPS 17 PACKAGES OF COCAINE INTO THE LA MASICA COMMUNITY.

(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

PAGE 6 [redacted] ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

15 JUNE 09 THE FINAL REPORT OF A SMALL AIRPLANE ENTERING WITH DRUGS IS RELEASED.

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

COLL: (U) [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424
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ENCL: (U) TO FOLLOW - 1 ENCLOSURES.

(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

PAGE 7 [redacted] ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

1. DIGITAL, DOCUMENT - (U) EL HERALDO ARTICLE ALLEGES DRUG FLIGHTS STOPPED WHEN ZELAYA REMOVED, 1 COPY/PDF/4 PAGES, 20090712 (U)

ACQ: (U) [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

DISSEM: [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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~~DRV FROM: DTIC 88 JUL 88~~

~~DECL: 20190713~~

Signature:

Classified By:

Declassify on: 20190713

Info:

CDR USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL,ROUTINE ; CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL,ROUTINE ;
CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL,ROUTINE ;
CDR USTRANSCOM [redacted] SCOTT AFB IL,ROUTINE

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COGARD [redacted] WASHINGTON DC, ROUTINE / [redacted]

(b)(3):50
USC 3024
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(b)(3):10
USC 424, (b)
(3):50 USC
3024(i)

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