

September 30, 1985

Dear Felix:

AFTER READING THIS LETTER PLEASE DESTROY IT. You may keep the photographs.

Within the next 15 days, the Unified Nicaraguan Opposition (UNCO) Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) air arm will commence operations with two new types of aircraft: the C-7, CARIBOU and the M-740, MAULE STOL (see enclosures). These aircraft will be used for air drop/aerial resupply to units inside Nicaragua.

Two contract C-7s are scheduled to arrive in Honduras on or about October 10. Initially the aircraft will be flown by U.S. citizens who are employees of the firm contracted to provide delivery services for the FDN. It is intended that these aircraft will operate primarily at night, performing paratroops to units deep inside. Nicaraguan aircrews will be trained to fly these missions as soon as possible.

The resistance has also purchased a number of new MAULE aircraft shown in the enclosed photograph. These STOL a/c will be used for day and night short-haul missions to include MEDEVAC and aerial resupply. Each aircraft comes with a spare parts package and a maintenance line has been established. Two aircraft have already been delivered. More will follow. All will be flown by Nicaraguan pilots or other Latin Americans -- not U.S. citizens.

Eventually both types of aircraft will also operate in support of the southern front from fields in Costa Rica. Neither Costa Rica or Honduras have adequate sites for maintaining these aircraft. The only location which provides sufficient OPSEC, ramp space and occasional hangar time for servicing these aircraft is at Ilogongo.

Since this is a completely compartmented operation, being handled by the resistance, you are the only person in the area who can set-up the servicing of these aircraft with General Vides Casanova and General Bustillo, both have a high regard for you and you may use my name privately with either of them but no others. You must not advise the Station Chief; you must also keep knowledge of this project from del Amico, who is not working with our people.

Would you, therefore, approach Generals Vides and Bustillo with the following proposal:

- Service space for one C-7 on a one day a week basis. A representative of the C-7 contractor will ensure that all parts and maintenance items are delivered to FDN service technicians (three) as needed. No Salvadoran parts or maintenance will be required.
- Service space for occasional MAULE maintenance with parts and supplies handled the same as above. Again, no Salvadoran parts or labor will be required.
- This plan requires only discrete use of the ESAF/FAS space and no use of FMS; MAP; and/or Agency funds, equipment, and/or personnel. The contractor will guarantee discretion.

Please advise soonest as to Salvadoran acceptance of this proposal. If Bustillo and Vides agree, a representative of the maintenance contractor will arrive and seek you out. He will identify himself as coming from Mr. Green.

Warm regards, hope all is well with you. We hear nothing but good reports about your work. Keep it up. Vaya con Dios!

EXCISED COPY FOLLOWS

September 20, 1985

Dear Felix:

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Within the next 15 days, the Unified Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO) / Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) air arm will commence operations with two new types of aircraft: the C-7, CARIBOU and the M-740, MAULE STOL (see enclosures). These aircraft will be used for air drop/aerial resupply to units inside Nicaragua.

Two contract C-7s are scheduled to arrive in Honduras on or about October 10. Initially the aircraft will be flown by U.S. citizens who are employees of the firm contracted to provide delivery services for the FDN. It is intended that these aircraft will operate primarily at night, performing paradrops to units deep inside. Nicaraguan aircrews will be trained to fly these missions as soon as possible.

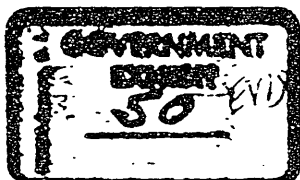
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Eventually both types of aircraft will also operate in support of the southern front from fields in Costa Rica. Neither Costa Rica or Honduras have adequate sites for maintaining these aircraft. The only location which provides sufficient OPSEC, ramp space and occasional hangar time for servicing these aircraft is at Ilopongo.

Since this is a completely compartmented operation, being handled by the resistance, you are the only person in the area who can set-up the servicing of these aircraft with (two high Salvadoran military officers), both have a high regard for you and you may use my name privately with either of them but no others. You must not advise the [CIA]; you must also keep knowledge of this project from del Amico, who is not working with our people.

Would you, therefore, approach (two high Salvadoran military officers) with the following proposal:

- Service space for one C-7 on a one day a week basis. A representative of the C-7 contractor will ensure that all parts and maintenance items are delivered to FDN service technicians (three) as needed. No Salvadoran parts or maintenance will be required.



IRG 1

AKW022740

Handwritten notes and signatures in the bottom right corner, including a date 'SEP 20 1985' and some illegible scribbles.

- Service space for occasional MAULE maintenance with parts and supplies handled the same as above. Again, no Salvadoran parts or labor will be required.
- This plan requires only discrete use of the ESAF/FAS space and no use of FMS; MAP; and/or Agency funds, equipment, and/or personnel. The contractor will guarantee discretion.

the two high) Please advise soonest as to Salvadoran acceptance of this
 Salvadoran } proposal. If () agree, a representative of the
 military } maintenance contractor will arrive and seek you out. He will
 officers } identify himself as coming from Mr. Green.

Warm regards, hope all is well with you. We hear nothing but good reports about your work. Keep it up. Vaya con Dios!



Mr. Felix Rodriguez
 215 N.E. 114th Street
 North Miami, FL 33161

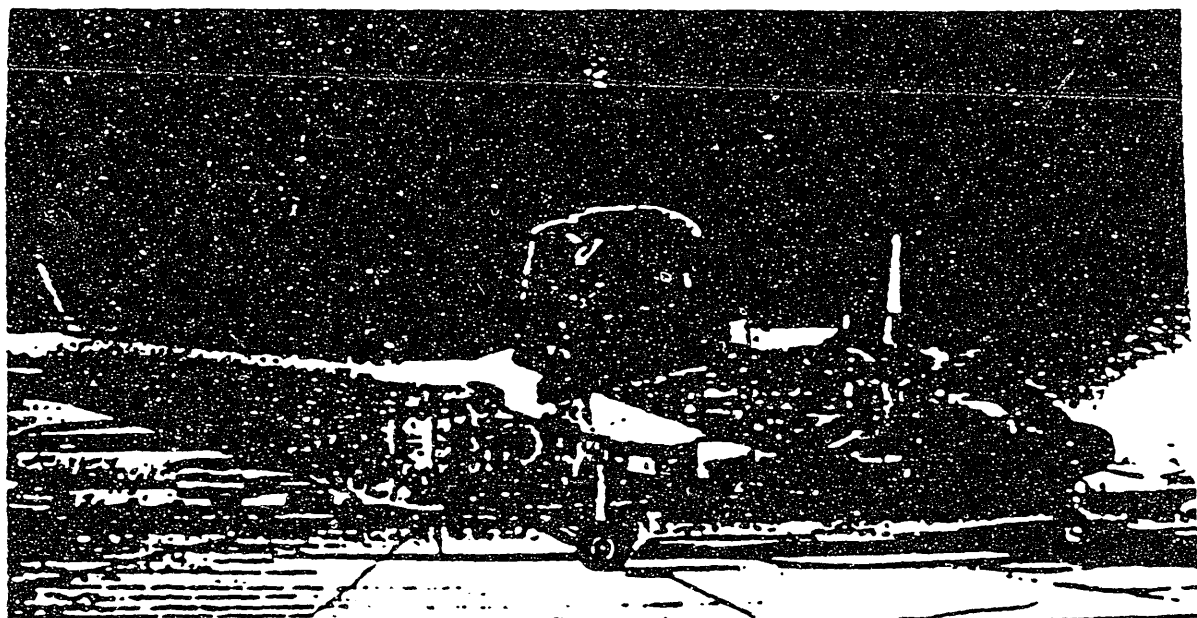
AKWQ22741

CARIBOU

C-7

Manufacturer: De Havilland
Power Plant: Dart recip
Crew: 2 Pilots; loadmaster
Passengers: 37 Troops
Payload: 9,700 lbs.
Cruising Speed: 150 kts (max.)
T.O. Run: 950 ft.
Landing Run: 1,550 ft.
Range: 1,700 nm
Costs: \$751./flt. hr.

AKWO22742





AKW022743

EXCISED COPY FOLLOWS

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Partially Declassified / Release: on 18 Aug 87
under provisions of E.O. 12958
by B. Reger, National Security Council

September 20, 1985

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Two contract C-7s are scheduled to arrive in [redacted] on or about October 10. Initially the aircraft will be flown by U.S. citizens who are employees of the firm contracted to provide delivery services for the FDN. It is intended that these aircraft will operate primarily at night, performing paradrops to units deep inside. Nicaraguan aircrews will be trained to fly these missions as soon as possible.

The resistance has also purchased a number of new MAULE aircraft shown in the enclosed photograph. These STOL a/c will be used for day and night short-haul missions to include MEDEVAC and aerial resupply. Each aircraft comes with a spare parts package and a maintenance line has been established. Two aircraft have already been delivered. More will follow. All will be flown by Nicaraguan pilots or other Latin Americans -- not U.S. citizens.

Eventually both types of aircraft will also operate in support of the [redacted] front from fields [redacted]. Neither [redacted] or [redacted] have adequate sites for maintaining these aircraft. The only location which provides sufficient OPSEC, ramp space and occasional hangar time for servicing these aircraft is at [redacted].

Since this is a completely compartmented operation, being handled by the resistance, you are the only person in the area who can set-up the servicing of these aircraft with [redacted] and [redacted] both have a high regard for you and you may use my name privately with either of them but no others. You must not advise [redacted] you must also keep knowledge of this project from [redacted] who is not working with our people.

Would you, therefore, approach [redacted] and [redacted] with the following proposal:

- Service space for one C-7 on a one day a week basis. A representative of the C-7 contractor will ensure that all parts and maintenance items are delivered to FDN service technicians (three) as needed. No [redacted] parts or maintenance will be required.

UNCLASSIFIED

