

TRUE EMMA L
CARACAS 11175

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SECTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 SS-15 SSO-00 CA-01 E-02

DODE-00 /040 W

098791 272059Z /61

272013Z NOV 78

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4784

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, OREP RYAN, LEO), GY, VE

SUBJECT: SMALL AIRCRAFT REQUIREMENTS FOR GUYANA

REF: 1) STATE 295945; 2) CARACAS 11112

EMBASSY WAS ABLE TO CONTACT PRESIDENT OF LINEA AEROPOSTAL VENEZUELANA (LAV) AIR FORCE BRIGADIER GENERAL OSCAR ALI ARAQUE. CONTRARY TO EMBASSY'S EARLIER IMPRESSION, LAV BOBS, IN FACT, HAVE SOME TWIN OTTERS.

2. GENERAL ARAQUE STATED THAT AFTER THE LOSS OF ONE UNIT IN A CRASH, LAV NOW HAS AVAILABLE ONLY FIVE TWIN OTTERS WHICH ARE IN DAILY SERVICE FLYING TO SMALL AIRPORTS SOUTH OF THE ORINOCO. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE VERY DIFFICULT TO MAKE AVAILABLE TWO UNITS. HOWEVER, THE GENERAL PROMISED TO BRING MATTER UP WITH MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS AFTERNOON OF NOV. 27, AND, WHILE NOT MAKING ANY COMMITMENTS, SEES THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING AVAILABLE ONE UNIT FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS WOULD BE LOAN OR LEASE -

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BUT PROBABLY THE LATTER.

3. THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS OPERATES TWO SHORTS SKYVANS, MAINLY IN LIAISON AND IN MAINTENANCE WORK. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AIR TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC, GENERAL SUAREZ, IS ON LEAVE FOR ANOTHER TWO WEEKS; HIS DEPUTY IS FLYING IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY. IN ANY CASE, THE FINAL DECISION ON THE SKYVANS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT COMMUNICATIONS.

4. EMBASSY WILL APPROACH THE MINISTER REGARDING THE LAV TWIN OTTER AND THE MINISTRY'S SKYVANS.

5. FOREGOING PASSED TO GUYANESE AMBASSADOR.

6. ARE AIRCRAFT STILL DESIRED?

END

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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