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FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 475, November 6, 6 p.m.

Classification 1958 ~~Control~~

Rec'd: 307 28 AM  
November 6, 1958  
6:53 p.m.

ACTION: \_\_\_\_\_

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**PRIORITY**

Following are excerpts from testimony of Osiris Martinez, survivor of Cubana airliner crash. Testimony brought here by Vice Consul Wayne Smith:

- (1) Several men, perhaps five, pulled guns and commandeered plane approximately 20 minutes after take-off.
- (2) Produced machine guns, uniforms and 26th July armbands.
- (3) Changed into dark green uniforms.
- (4) Passengers informed plane had been ordered to Mayari Arriba where a landing strip was ready to receive them.
- (5) Were trying to deliver an important package, after which plane would be refueled and pilot would be allowed take passengers to original destination.
- (6) Intimated pilot was not cooperating and gunmen might be forced to kill pilot.
- (7) Plane circled some field several times and believed a landing was attempted.
- (8) Over heard men say they would try to land in Prestes. After approximately 10 minutes level flight, plane circled again. After circling some time plane crashed.

Consul Smith personally saw the 26th July arm-bands. I do not believe there is any doubt that hijacking of Cubana

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-2- 475, November 6, 6 p.m., from Habana  
airliner was done by 26th July movement.

Complete text of testimony follows.

SMITH

AAL:TJM/7

Note: Mr. Leonhardy (CMA) notified 11/6/8:30 p.m. EH

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