

0172000Z AUG 79

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FROM: USDAO LA PAZ BOLIVIA

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RECEIVED
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BT

THIS IS IR 6 808 0057 79

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL

1. (U) COUNTRY: BOLIVIA (BL)
2. (U) REPORT NUMBER: 6 808 0057 79
3. (U) TITLE: MOON DUST - OBJECT FOUND NEAR

SANTA CRUZ.

DISSEMINATION DELAY DUE TO

4. (U) PROJECT NUMBER: NA
5. (U) DATE OF INFO: 790816-790817 RDS-3 RECEIPT DELAY.
6. (U) DATE OF REPORT: 790817
7. (U) DATE & PLACE OF ACQ: 790816-790817, SANTA CRUZ
8. (U) REFERENCES: D-T3B-49756/CONTINUES
9. (U) ASSESSMENT: A7 F-6 B. F-6

1521

(19) 9/13

10. (U) ORIGINATOR: USDAO LA PAZ, DATT/AIRA
11. (U) REQUEST EVALUATION: NO
12. (U) PREPARING OFFICER: HAROLD T. HAMILTON, COL, USAF
13. (U) APPROVING AUTHORITY: HAROLD T. HAMILTON, COL,
USAF
14. (U) SOURCE: A. NEWS MEDIA, B. OTS
15. (U) SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: PROTECTIVE CAVEAT USED
DUE TO SENSITIVITY OF INFO. DIRC: NO

16. SUMMARY: A REPORT HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITHIN
THE EMBASSY AND REPORTED IN THE SANTA CRUZ NEWSPAPER OF
AN UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT HAVING BEEN FOUND ON A FARM NEAR
SANTA CRUZ.

ITEM 22. A. ON LATE AFTERNOON OF 790816
THE EMBASSY HERE RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT A STRANGE
OBJECT HAD BEEN FOUND ON A FARM NEAR SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA.
SOURCE STATED THAT THE OBJECT WAS ABOUT 70 CENTIMETERS
IN DIAMETER AND TWO METERS IN CIRCUMFERENCE WITH A HOLE IN
ONE SIDE AND A METAL SKIN COVERING OF APPROX ONE-HALF
INCH THICKNESS. LATER THE OBJECT WAS DESCRIBED AS "ABOUT
THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF A BASKETBALL". SOURCE STATED THAT
HE HAD FILM OF THIS OBJECT WHICH HE GAVE TO AN EMBASSY
OFFICIAL ON 790817.

B. ON THE MORNING OF 790817, THE SANTA CRUZ
NEWSPAPER "EL DEBER" PUBLISHED A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ON

THIS INCIDENT. AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS: QUOTE - PART OF WHAT COULD BE A SATELLITE FELL NEAR COTOCA. A PHENOMENON THAT COULD FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD ON BOLIVIA OCCURRED IN OUR CAPITAL WHEN A SPHERE WAS DISCOVERED THAT FELL APPROXIMATELY SIX DAYS AGO ON A FARM LOCATED 15KM FROM COTOCA.

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THIS NEWSPAPER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY, COL ARIEL COCA, THE SPHERE IS MADE OF SPECIAL LIGHT ALLOY BUT VERY RESISTANT, POSSIBLY A FUEL TANK OR A PART OF A SATELLITE! THE OBJECT DOES NOT HAVE ANY SIGNS OR MARKS THAT COULD IDENTIFY ITS ORIGIN NOR THE COUNTRY TO WHICH IT BELONGS.

COL COCA SAID THAT HE WILL INFORM HIS SUPERIORS OF THIS PHENOMENON SO THAT A STUDY CAN BE MADE TO DETERMINE ITS ORIGIN AND TO BE ANALYZED IN CASE IT CONTAINS RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCE. THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE AREA WHERE THIS BALL OF FIRE (AS THEY CALLED IT) FELL, DELAYED IN TELLING THE AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE EVENT BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID THAT NO ONE WOULD LISTEN. - UNQUOTE.

C. AN ACCOMPANYING PICTURE IN THE NEWSPAPER SHOWS COL COCA, COMMANDER OF THE BOLIVIAN AIR FORCE ACADEMY, EXAMINING A ROUND OBJECT WHICH REACHES ABOVE HIS KNEES AND APPEARS TO BE PERFECTLY ROUND EXCEPT FOR A HOLE (MISSING PORTION OF OUTER SKIN) WHICH IS ABOUT NINE INCHES IN DIAMETER.

NO COMMENTS: WE HAVE MADE NO INQUIRIES NOR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION OTHER THAN TO GET THE UNDEVELOPED FILM DISCUSSED EARLIER. WE RECEIVED FROM SOURCE A ROLL OF 135MM FILM FOR COLOR PRINTS AND A ROLL OF KODACHROME 40 MOVIE FILM, TYPE A. THE 135MM FILM WILL BE DEVELOPED AND PRINTED HERE IN LA PAZ. THE MOVIE FILM AND A COPY OF THE NEWSPAPER STORY WITH ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPH WILL BE FORWARDED BY POUCH ON 790820 TO DIA DT-3. THE COORDINATES FOR THE TOWN OF COTOCA ARE 17-49S, 63-03W. REFERENCE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE TO "OUR CAPITAL" - THIS REFERS TO SANTA CRUZ AS THAT TOWN IS THE CAPITAL OF THE DEPARTMENT (STATE) OF SANTA CRUZ

BT

EMB COORDINATION: AMB

APPROVED:

HAROLD T. HAMILTON
Colonel, USAF
Defense Attache

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