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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 26, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM:

JAMES E. CONNOR *JEB*

The attached Fact Sheet on Cuban Commercial Over flight of the US was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation.

"2/26/76 -- We should not grant."

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

FACT SHEET ON CUBAN COMMERCIAL OVERFLIGHT  
OF THE US

-- Several months ago we received word from the Canadian government of its wish to establish commercial air service between Canada and Cuba using a Cuban airline. At that time we advised Canada of the requirement that Cuba file an application for such commercial service with the FAA.

-- No such application has been filed.

-- Yesterday a Cuban aircraft made a flight from Havana to Montreal. While in flight it requested the necessary clearance to overfly the U.S. from the FAA. The authority was granted (consideration of the application for permanent service is handled on a separate basis from approval for individual flights and the approval yesterday was given under the assumption that the application had already been considered and approved)

-- The Department of State has sent a note to the Government of Cuba (via the Government of Switzerland) protesting this overflight before approval of an application for permanent commercial service.

-- As background it should be noted that the United States commercial carriers regularly overfly Cuban airspace, but only after Cuban approval of the same sort of application we require. Thus our objection is not one of principle but of circumvention of the necessary administrative procedures.

2/26/76

We should not grant.