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:AM-CUBA-U.S/PANAMA
REPORTS OF CUBAN TROOPS IN PANAMA +BIG JOKE+ CUBANOFFICIAL SAYS
HAVANA, APRIL 7: REUTER -- CUBAN VICE-MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MIGUEL BRUGUERES, DECLARED THAT REPORTS PUBLISHED IN THE WASHING TIMES THAT A BRIGADE OD CUBAN AND NICARAGUAN SOLDIERS HAD ARRIVED IN THE PANAMANIAN PROVINCE OF BOCAS DEL TORO IS +A BIG JOKE+. THE HAVANA-BASED NEWS AGENCY, PRENSA LATINA, SAID THURSDAY.
+WHAT IS NOT A JOKE IS THE ARRIVAL OF 1300 U.S. SOLDIERS IN PANAMA, OR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW SHIPMENTS OF U.S. TROOPS OR THE PRESSURE WHICH WASHINGTON IS EXERTING ON PANAMA,+ BRUGUERES SAID.
+THE ONLY THING THAT WE HVE SENT TO PANAMA IS A DELEGATION WITH A MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT FOR PANAMAINIAN SOVEREIGNTY,+ THE CUBAN OFFICIAL SAID.
==REUTER/LEM 1438
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