n/a

RELEASED IN PART B1, 1.5(D)

PTQ5764

PTQ5764

09567 082059Z BOGOTA PAGE 01

ACTION ARA-01

INL-01 ACQ-01 AID-00 ACDE-00 INLB-01 ACDA-08 LOG-00 INFO INR-00 OIGO-01 TEDE-00 EB-00 DS-00 SRPP-00 OASY-00 ASDS-01 PMB-00 SCT-00 PM-00 ADS-00 MMP-00

L-01 /019W DRL-04 SWCI-00

DSCC-00 ---ED47D3 082100Z /38

O 081928Z OCT 97

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9193

INFO SECDEF WASHDC//OCDEPS//

USIA WASHDC 3236

DEA WASHDC

DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD

FBI WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

DIRONDCP WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCSO MIAMI FL

DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC

NDIC JOHNSTOWN PA

DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC

NSC WASHDC

L BOGOTA 009567

STATE FOR ARA/AND, INL, L/LEI, PM, AND DRL

NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS

TAITME

09567 082059Z BOGOTA PAGE 02

ONDCP FOR JANET CRIST

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

DEA FOR OF, OFL, OC, AX

JUSTICE FOR CRIM. WARREN, RICHARD AND NDDS/VAN VLIET

FBI FOR CID/IRS/IRU2

USIA FOR AR, I/GAR

TREASURY FOR FINCEN

E.O. 12958: 10/07/02

n/a

Page: 1

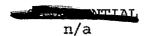
EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS DATE/CASE ID: 22 MAY 2001 200004409

DECLASSIFY AFTER: 07-OCT-2007, REASON: 1.5(D)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



Page: 2

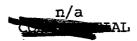
TAGS: PGOV, MCAP, PHUM, PTER, SNAR, PINR, KJUS, CO SUBJECT: SCANDAL OVER ARMY REQUEST TO CONVIVIR IN ANTIOQUIA

- (U) · CLASSIFIED BY POLMILOFF RICHARD HAWKINS. REASON: 1.5(D).
- 1. (U) SUMMARY: REVELATION OF A CIRCULAR SENT BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY'S FOURTH BRIGADE TO VARIOUS CONVIVIR (SELF-DEFENSE ASSOCIATIONS) IN ANTIOQUIA CAUSED OUTRAGE IN THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT ON OCTOBER 7. THE CIRCULAR ASKED THE ASSOCIATIONS TO REPORT ON THE POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS AND SYMPATHIES OF MAYORAL AND TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATES IN THEIR AREAS. ANTIOQUIA SENATOR PIEDAD CORDOBA, A FIERCE OPPONENT OF THE CONVIVIR MOVEMENT, SAID THE CIRCULAR WAS PROOF THAT THE GROUPS ARE INVOLVED IN (POLITICAL) INTELLIGENCE AND UNDERMINING THE RULE OF LAW. DEFENSE MINISTER ECHEVERRI SAID IT WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE, ANTIOQUIA GOVERNOR URIBE CALLED IT AN INAPPROPRIATE ERROR, AND ARMY COMMANDER MG GALAN ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION. END SUMMARY.
- 2. (U) ON OCTOBER 7 CONSERVATIVE SENATOR FABIO VALENCIA COSSIO ANNOUNCED TO GENERAL CONSTERNATION THAT A MEMO SIGNED BY FOURTH BRIGADE CHIEF OF STAFF COL. JUAN OCTAVIO TRIVINO HAD ASKED CONVIVIR SELF-DEFENSE ASSOCIATIONS IN ANTIOQUIA TO SEND THE ARMY LISTS OF



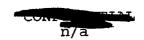
09567 082059Z PAGE 03 BOGOTA LOCAL CANDIDATES, INCLUDING THEIR POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS, DEGREE OF ACCEPTANCE AMONG THE PEOPLE, THEIR SYMPATHIES TOWARD DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY FORCES, AND WHAT DEGREE OF LOCAL INFLUENCE THEY WIELD. THE MEMORANDUM INDICATED THAT "NARCOTERRORISTS" OF THE FARC (REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA) AND ELN (NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY) ARE CARRYING OUT A CAMPAIGN OF INTIMIDATION MY MEANS OF KIDNAPPINGS, ASSASSINATIONS, TERRORIST ATTACKS AND ARMED ACTIONS TO IMPEDE THE OCTOBER 26 "FOR THAT REASON," SAID THE MEMO, "IT IS ELECTORAL PROCESS. REQUIRED THAT THE CONVIVIR ASSOCIATIONS GIVE MAXIMUM EFFORT TO FINDING INFORMATION IN ORDER TO NEUTRALIZE AND/OR IMPEDE THE THE CIRCULAR ALSO ASKED THE EFFORTS OF THE SUBVERSIVE CARTELS." CONVIVIRS FOR INFORMATION ON THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL GUERRILLA GROUPS TO DAMAGE ELECTIONS, ANALYSIS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE POINTS IN PUBLIC FORCES PROTECTION OF THE ELECTIONS, AND SUGGESTIONS TO GUARANTEE A NORMAL ELECTION PROCESS.

3. (U) SEN. VALENCIA MADE HIS REVELATION DURING A MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMISSION ON CONCILIATION AND PEACE, CONVENED TO FIND WAYS OF SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT PEACE INITIATIVE AND DETERRING ELECTORAL VIOLENCE. INTERIOR MINISTER CARLOS TRUJILLO SAID HE HAD



Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED



Page: 3

IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED DEFENSE MINISTER GILBERTO MEJIA, WHO LATER CHARACTERIZED THE MEMO AS A GOOD-FAITH ERROR IN COL. TRIVINO'S EAGERNESS TO COLLABORATE WITH THE AUTHORITIES. GOV. URIBE, A STRONG DEFENDER OF CONVIVIRS, SAID COLOMBIA'S IS A BROAD DEMOCRACY WHICH MUST ADMIT ALL FORMS OF EXPRESSION OF OPPOSITION.

B1, 1.5(D)

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Page: 3