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RELEASED IN PART  
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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ACQ-01	INL-01
	OASY-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	OIGO-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	L-01	ADS-00	MMP-00	PM-00	SCT-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-04	SWCI-00	/019W			

-----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

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STATE FOR ARA/AND, INL, L/LEI, PM, AND DRL  
NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS

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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

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

E.O. 12958: 10/07/02

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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)

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TAGS: PGOV, MCAV, 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

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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 BY MEANS OF KIDNAPPINGS, ASSASSINATIONS, TERRORIST ATTACKS AND ARMED ACTIONS TO IMPEDE THE OCTOBER 26 ELECTORAL PROCESS. "FOR THAT REASON," SAID THE MEMO, "IT IS REQUIRED THAT THE CONVIVIR ASSOCIATIONS GIVE MAXIMUM EFFORT TO FINDING INFORMATION IN ORDER TO NEUTRALIZE AND/OR IMPEDE THE EFFORTS OF THE SUBVERSIVE CARTELS." THE CIRCULAR ALSO ASKED THE 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

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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.

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