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E28

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	HA-09	H-01	INM-02	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01
	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	/038W

-----17C734 071651Z /38

P 071649Z JAN 94
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5091
 INFO DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
 DEA WASHDC
 CIA WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY LIMA
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

RELEASED IN PART
1.5(B), 1.5(D), B1

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STATE FOR ARA/AND, L/LEI,
 STATE PASS AID -- AA/LAC, LAC/SAM, LAC/DI
 JUSTICE FOR OIA, OAG
 USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, KJUS, PINR, SNAR, CO
 SUBJECT: VILLA ALZATE SPEAKS: DENIES ANY CONNECTION WITH

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DISAPPEARANCE OF SECRET WITNESS

REF: BOGOTA 0116

1. (U) IN A PRESS INTERVIEW PUBLISHED JANUARY 5 FORMER
 DELEGATE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR JUDICIAL POLICE AFFAIRS,
 GUILLERMO VILLA ALZATE, DENIED ANY CONNECTION TO THE
 DISAPPEARANCE OF JAIME RINCON LEZAMA, ALLEGEDLY A SECRET
 PAID WITNESS AGAINST THE BLOQUE DE BUSQUEDA (REF). WHILE
 VILLA ADMITTED THAT HE RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM RINCON
 LEZAMA CONCERNING THE INVOLVEMENT OF SOME MEMBERS OF THE

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BLOQUE WITH THE PEPES, THE FORMER OFFICIAL DENIED ALLEGATIONS THAT HE EVER PAID RINCON LEZAMA MONEY, OR OFFERED HIM PROTECTION. VILLA ALSO STATED THAT HE WAS TOLD BY BLOQUE COMMANDER, COLONEL HUGO MARTINEZ, THAT RINCON WAS A MEDELLIN CARTEL PLANT WORKING FOR PABLO ESCOBAR. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) LEADING BOGOTA DAILY "EL TIEMPO" CARRIED EXCERPTS OF AN INTERVIEW WITH THE FORMER DELEGATE PROCURADOR, VILLA ALZATE, JANUARY 5 IN WHICH HE DENIED ANY CONNECTION WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF JAIME RINCON LEZAMA, ALIAS "FERNANDO." REFTEL DESCRIBES FERNANDO'S FAMILY'S ASSERTION THAT THE MISSING FORMER MEMBER OF THE BLOQUE DE BUSQUEDA WAS BEING PAID BY VILLA FOR INFORMATION HE PROVIDED CONCERNING THE INFILTRATION OF THE BLOQUE BY THE ANTI-ESCOBAR VIGILANTE GROUP "LOS PEPES." THE FAMILY ALLEGES THAT FERNANDO HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE MAY, SHORTLY AFTER HE INITIATED CONTACT WITH VILLA ALZATE.

3. (U) ACCORDING TO VILLA ALZATE'S STATEMENT TO "EL
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TIEMPO," FERNANDO APPROACHED THE EX-PROCURADOR IN THE COMPANY OF HIS WIFE, MARGOLY ROJAS, AFTER THE FORMER'S DISMISSAL FROM THE POLICE FORCE IN MARCH 1993. VILLA STATES THAT FERNANDO OFFERED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON LOS PEPES IN RETURN FOR MONETARY REMUNERATION, TO WHICH VILLA ALLEGEDLY REPLIED THAT THE PROCURADURIA DID NOT PAY FOR INFORMATION. APPARENTLY FERNANDO SPOKE TO VILLA ANYWAY AND MENTIONED TWO OTHER BLOQUE AGENTS, IDENTIFIED AS SAMUEL BAUTISTA CARRILLO AND PASTOR PERDOMO, WHO WERE ALSO WILLING TO DIVULGE INFORMATION ABOUT "LOS ROSADOS" - THE CODE NAME USED TO IDENTIFY POLICE COLLABORATORS WITH THE PEPES WITHIN THE BLOQUE. VILLA SAYS THAT HE IMMEDIATELY INFORMED THE PROCURADOR GENERAL, CARLOS GUSTAVO ARRIETA, OF THESE ALLEGATIONS OF PEPE INVOLVEMENT IN THE BLOQUE.

4. (U) VILLA FURTHER ALLEGES THAT HE AND THE PROCURADOR PROMPTLY MET WITH THE BLOQUE COMMANDER, COLONEL HUGO MARTINEZ, WHO INFORMED THEM THAT FERNANDO HAD BEEN DISMISSED FROM THE FORCE IN MARCH 1993 BECAUSE OF TIES TO PABLO ESCOBAR. MARTINEZ ALSO TOLD ARRIETA THAT FERNANDO'S WIFE HAD PREVIOUSLY WORKED AT ESCOBAR'S RANCH (HACIENDA NAPOLES) AND WAS ALSO CONNECTED TO THE DRUG CAPO. VILLA STATES THAT THIS INFORMATION LED HIM TO SUSPECT THAT THE

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EX-AGENT MIGHT HAVE BEEN AN ESCOBAR PLANT AND CAUSED HIM TO LOSE FAITH IN THE WITNESS. AGENTS BAUTISTA AND PERDOMO, HOWEVER, REPORTEDLY PROVIDED TESTIMONY IN LATE APRIL WHICH CORROBORATED THAT OF RINCON'S WIFE MARGOLY ROJAS, AND ACCORDING TO "EL TIEMPO," THE TWO OFFICERS WERE ALSO SUBSEQUENTLY DISMISSED AS COLLABORATORS WITH THE MEDELLIN CARTEL. VILLA SAYS THAT A RELATIVE OF FERNANDO LEFT WORD OF RINCON'S DISAPPEARANCE WITH THE PROCURADOR'S

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OFFICE AT THE BEGINNING OF JUNE.



B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

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	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	/038W

-----17C740 071652Z /38

P 071649Z JAN 94
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5092
INFO DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
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CIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

C O N ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BOGOTA 00266

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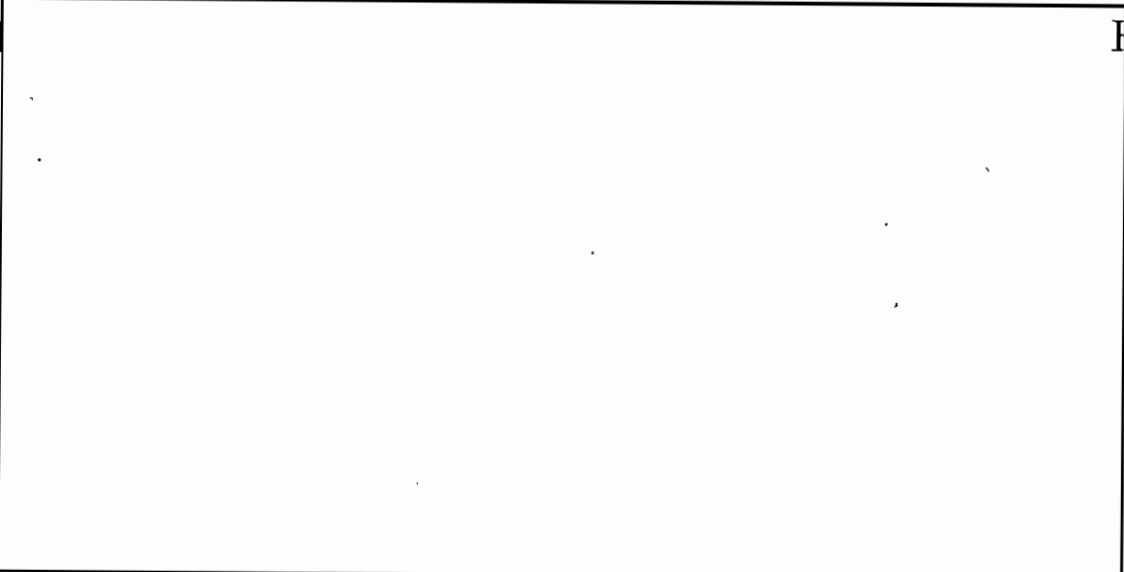
n/a

STATE FOR ARA/AND, L/LEI,
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DISAPPEARANCE OF SECRET WITNESS



B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

6. (C) COMMENT: SINCE THE MEDIA FIRST BROKE THE STORY OF VILLA ALZATE'S PHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH CALI CARTEL KINGPIN MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ OREJUELA, THIS CASE HAS BEEN MARKED BY PERVERSE TWISTS AND TURNS THAT HAVE LED TO MUCH SPECULATION, BUT FEW HARD AND FAST ANSWERS. THE NOVEMBER DISCOVERY OF THE 'INFAMOUS "NARCO PHOTOS" IN VILLA'S FORMER OFFICE CAUSED A PRESS STIR, BUT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DISMISSED AS MISPLACED EVIDENCE FROM A DECADE-OLD INVESTIGATION.

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7. (C) THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT ONCE AGAIN RAISES
QUESTIONS AS TO THE EXTENT OF POSSIBLE CALI CARTEL
INFLUENCE. THE PHONE-TAPPED TRANSCRIPTS BETWEEN VILLA AND
RODRIGUEZ LEAVE LITTLE ROOM FOR DOUBT THAT THE TWO HAD A
WORKING RELATIONSHIP AND IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT ANY
SUBSTANTIATION OF CALI-POLICE COMPLICITY IN THE ACTIVITIES
OF LOS PEPES WOULD HAVE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED THE BLOQUE'S
CREDIBILITY IN THEIR EFFORTS AGAINST ESCOBAR. FOR THE
MOMENT, NEITHER FISCALIA NOR PROCURADURIA SOURCES ARE
SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT THEIR INVESTIGATIONS INTO VILLA
ALZATE, HOWEVER, WITH THIS ADDED NEW TWIST - AND VILLA'S
SOMEWHAT FLIMSY ATTEMPT TO DISTANCE HIMSELF FROM IT - GOC
INVESTIGATORS WILL HOPEFULLY PUSH HARDER TO GET TO THE
BOTTOM OF THE CASE. BUSBY

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CO: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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