

ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	CCO-00	CEA-01	CG-00
	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	PERC-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	ITC-01
	L-00	CAC-00	VCE-00	M-00	AC-00	DCP-01	NRCE-00
	NSAE-00	OCS-01	OMB-01	DHS-00	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-00	R-00	EPAE-00
	ECA-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	/008W					

-----ACFCF2 031423Z /38

R 031407Z OCT 03
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9516
 INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 CIA WASHDC
 NSC WASHDC
 DIA WASHDC

RELEASED IN PART
B6, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 009357

BUENOS AIRES FOR DRUCKER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/02/2013
 TAGS: PGOV, PTER, ECON, CO
 SUBJECT: MEDELLIN SNAPSHOT

REF: BOGOTA 8855

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR WILLIAM B. WOOD, REASONS: 1.5 B & D.

1. (U) POLOFFS MET IN MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA'S SECOND LARGEST CITY, WITH POLICE AND ARMY OFFICERS, CANDIDATES AND LEGISLATORS, A HUMAN RIGHTS NGO, AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN. ALTHOUGH MEDELLIN HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING COLOMBIA'S MOST VIOLENT METROPOLIS, A PICTURE EMERGED OF A LESS VIOLENT CITY, FOCUSED ON LOCAL ELECTIONS AND IMPROVING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT.

VIOLENT CRIME DOWN

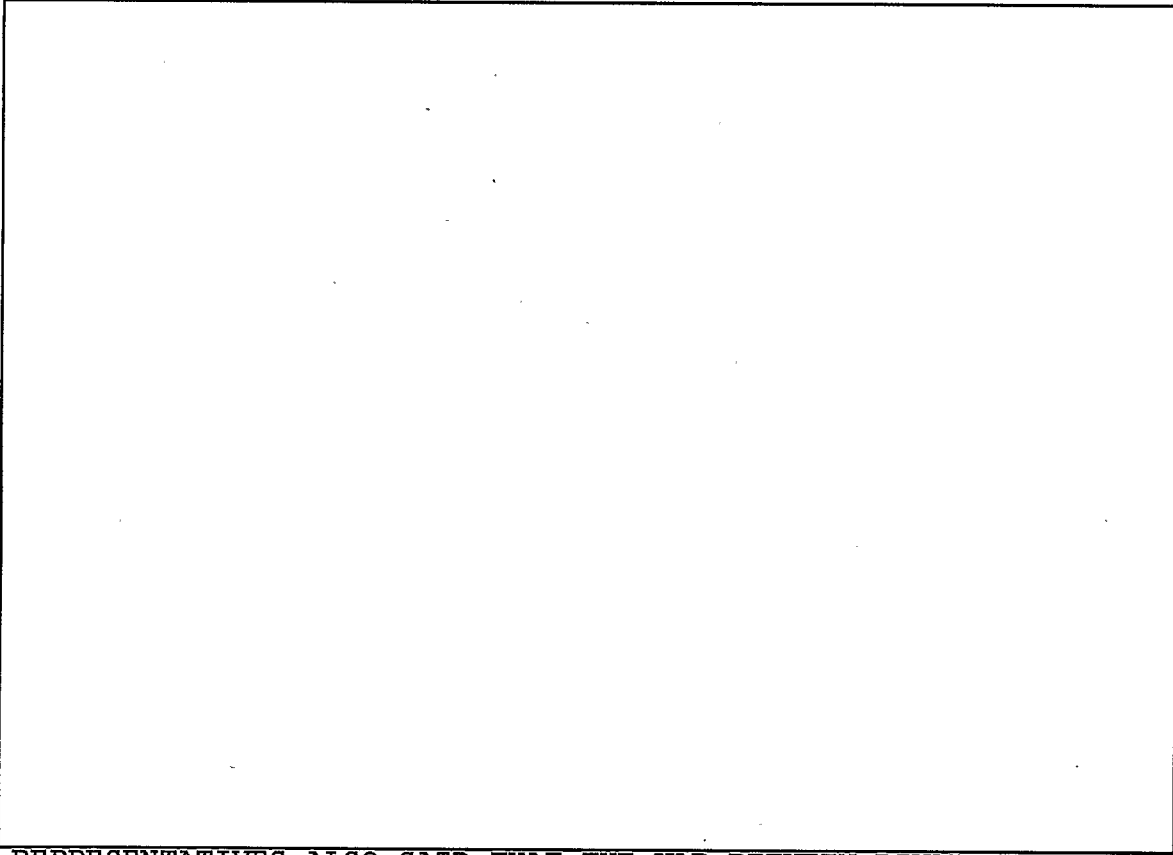
2. (U) [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] REPORTED A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS IN 2003 IN COMPARISON WITH THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 2002, ALTHOUGH HIGHWAY ROBBERIES AND CAR THEFTS INCREASED. HE ATTRIBUTED THE REDUCTION TO ENHANCED COOPERATION WITH THE

B6

UNCLASSIFIED

MILITARY, BETTER INTELLIGENCE, AND A MORE AGGRESSIVE RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF CRIMES IN PROGRESS.

B1



REPRESENTATIVES ALSO SAID THAT THE WAR BETWEEN RIVAL PARAMILITARY GROUPS (METRO BLOC VERSUS THE CACIQUE NUTIBARA BLOC) WAS BEING OVER-REPORTED. ELEMENTS OF THE ARMY, THEY SAID, SUPPORTED THE NUTIBARA BLOCK, COMPOSED OF FORMER LEADERS OF THE ULTRA-VIOLENT "PEPES" GROUP THAT PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN BRINGING DOWN DRUG KINGPIN PABLO ESCOBAR.

POLITICIANS LOOKING OUT FOR NUMBER ONE

5. (SBU) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TOLD POLOFFS THAT HE SUPPORTED THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM, DESPITE THE NATIONAL PARTY'S OPPOSITION. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ADDED IN A SEPARATE MEETING THAT THEY LACKED FUNDS TO TRANSPORT AND FEED VOTERS (PARTICULARLY OUTSIDE THE CITIES) AND THAT THEY TOO WOULD FOCUS ON THE ELECTION OF LOCAL CANDIDATES. [REDACTED] IDENTIFIED MEDELLIN AS THE INDUSTRIAL CENTER OF COLOMBIA AND ENTHUSED OVER DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES TO INCLUDE TREE FARMING AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER, IN THE HOPE OF ATTRACTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT. POLOFFS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGAL AND

B6

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B6

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ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM AS WELL AS PUBLIC SECURITY IN
ATTRACTING INVESTMENT.
WOOD

NNNN

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