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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
JCS MESSAGE CENTER

(b)(3):10 USC 424

IMMEDIATE
O 062217Z NOV 85
FM [REDACTED]
TO DIA WASHDC
INFO [REDACTED]

ZYLW RUEHBOA3581 3102216

(b)(3):10 USC 424 (b)
(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

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(b)(3):10 USC 424

SERIAL: (U) [REDACTED] (b)(3):10 USC 424

PASS: (U) [REDACTED] (b)(3):10 USC 424, (b)
(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

COUNTRY: (U) COLOMBIA (CO)

(b)(3):10 USC 424
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] PALACE OF JUSTICE UPDATE (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY
EVALUATED INTEL

DOI: (U) 851106

(b)(3):10 USC 424

REQ: (U) [REDACTED]

SOURCE: (U) [REDACTED]
(b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

SUMMARY: ~~(S/NF)~~ AT APPROXIMATELY 1500R ON 851106,
COLOMBIAN SECURITY FORCES ASSAULTED THE PALACE OF
JUSTICE BUILDING AND REGAINED CONTROL OF FOUR OF FIVE
FLOORS IN THE BUILDING. GOVERNMENT LOSSES WERE 1 KIA AND
2 WIA. THERE WAS 1 CIVILIAN WIA. GUERRILLA LOSSES THUS
FAR ARE 18 KIA. ACTION TO SECURE THE REMAINING FLOOR
CONTINUES.

TEXT: ~~(S/NF)~~ AT 1125R, APPROXIMATELY 30 M-19 GUERRILLAS
FORCEFULLY ENTERED THE PALACE OF JUSTICE BUILDING
THROUGH THE BASEMENT, KILLING THE TWO WATCHMEN ON DUTY.
THEY THEN PROCEEDED TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE BUILDING WITH
AN ESTIMATED 200 TO 300 OCCUPANTS, INCLUDING SEVERAL
COLOMBIAN MAGISTRATES AND JUSTICES. AT APPROXIMATELY
1500R, COLOMBIAN SECURITY FORCES, INCLUDING ELEMENTS OF
THE GOES ASSAULTED
THE FIVE STORY BUILDING. UNITS ENTERED SIMULTANEOUSLY
FROM THE ROOF AND GROUND FLOORS. FLOORS ONE THROUGH THREE
AND FIVE WERE LIBERATED. IN THE PROCESS, GOVERNMENT
FORCES SUFFERED 1 KIA AND 2 WIA. ONE CIVILIAN WAS WIA
AND AN ESTIMATED 200 CIVILIANS FREED. THE GUERRILLAS
SUFFERED 18 KIA AND THE SURVIVORS BEAT A HASTY RETREAT TO
THE FOURTH FLOOR WHERE THEY CONTINUE TO HOLD SEVERAL
HOSTAGES, INCLUDING THE MAGISTRATES AND JUSTICES. COM-
BINED MILITARY/POLICE OPERATIONS CONTINUE TO SECURE CON-
TROL OF THE FOURTH FLOOR. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE,

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ACTION DC-4A(1) (U,6,7,F)
INFO CJCS(4) NIDS(1) J5(2) SECDEF:(1) SECDEF(9) USDP(11)
ASD:PA&E(1) USDP:DSAA(4) DI-1(1) NMIC(1) RJS-2B(1)
OS-1(1) NWS(1) JSI-4B(1) DIC-3A(1) AT-5(1) DIO(1)
DE-3(1) DB-3C(2) DB-3C2(1) DB-5D2(1) DB-1E(1)
DT-1(1) DIA(1) DT-5(1) DC-4A5(1)
+NPIC WASHINGTON DC [REDACTED]

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USC 403-1(i)

MCN=85310/06222 TOR=85310/2234Z TAD=85310/2325Z CDSN=MIA250

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COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT BETANCUR, AS SOON AS HE LEARNED OF
THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION, GAVE THE MILITARY A
GREEN LIGHT, TELLING THEM TO DO WHATEVER WAS NECESSARY
TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

COMMENT: ~~(S/NF)~~ THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY IS PLEASED WITH
THEIR EFFORTS THUS FAR, AND ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEY WILL
PROMPTLY AND SUCCESSFULLY TERMINATE THE CRISIS FROM A
POSITION OF STRENGTH. THEIR PARTICULAR APPRECIATION OF
[REDACTED] WHICH MADE THEIR ACTIONS
POSSIBLE [REDACTED] IN AN EFFUSIVE MANNER.
PRESIDENT BETANCUR'S UNLEASHING OF THE MILITARY IS PAR-
TICULARLY SIGNIFICANT. HE HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO MUCH
PUBLIC CRITICISM AS OF LATE FOR A PEACE POLICY GENERALLY
REGARDED AS A FAILURE. THE BRASHNESS OF THE M-19 MOVE
MADE POSSIBLE BY HIS PAST WEAKNESS WILL PROBABLY BE
OVERSHADOWED BY AN IMAGE OF DECISIVENESS IN THIS INSTANCE
WITH HIS CONTINUOUS LUCK, BETANCUR IS ABOUT TO COME OUT
A WINNER. [REDACTED] (b)(3):10 USC 424

PROJ: (U) N/A
COLL: (U) NONE
INSTR: (U) U.S. NO

[REDACTED] (b)(3):10 USC 424

EVAL: (U) NO, REL TO: NONE
DISSEM: (U) N/A
WARNING: (U) ~~NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS~~
DECL: ~~CONF BY~~

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