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ACTION SCT-00							,	

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ARA-01	A-00
	ACQ-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CEA-01	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	INL-01	DEAE-00	DINT-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00 ·	EB-00	EXIM-01	OIGO-01	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	FBO-01	FRB-00	H-01	IMMC-01	IM-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	INSE-00	IO-00	ITC-01	JUSE-00.	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00
•	MMP-00	M-00.	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01-
	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00.
*	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	DTC-01
	SGHD-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-0:0
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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

USCINCSO MIAMI FL

DIRONDCP WASHDC

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

P 291903Z DEC 98 UNITED STATED DEPARTMENT OF STATE, REVIEW AUTHORITY: DAVID W COX, CLASSIFICATION:

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6567 | CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D), DECLASSIFY AFTER: 28

INFO SECDEF WASHDC DEC 2023, DATE/CASE ID: 21 APR 2009 200604183

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 04 BOGOTA 014108

CONFIDENTIAL

.BOGOTA 14108 01 OF 04 291943Z

APPEALS PANEL ACTION: RELEASED IN PART 1.4(D), B6 SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: X6(1.6)

TAGS: PINS, SNAR, PTER, ECON, PHUM, MASS, ASEC, PGOV, PINR, CO SUBJECT: THE PARAS FIGHT BACK AGAINST GUERRILLAS AND NARCOS (PART II OF TRIP REPORT TO MONTERIA, A COLOMBIAN "PARA"-DISE)

REF: BOGOTA 13823

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR CURTIS W. KAMMAN. REASONS: 1.5(B&D).

1. (2) SUMMARY: DURING A RECENT POLOFF TRIP TO THE OPENLY PRO-PARAMILITARY TOWN OF MONTERIA (CORDOBA DEPARTMENT), COLOMBIAN RANCHERS, BUSINESSMEN, ACADEMICS AND OTHERS EXPLAINED TO POLOFF





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HOW THE LOCAL "SELF-DEFENSE FORCES OF CORDOBA AND URABA" (I.E., THE "ACCU" PARAMILITARIES) WERE ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED DURING THE 1980S, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ARMY AND POLICE, AS A REACTION TO YEARS OF UNCHECKED GUERRILLA DEPREDATIONS. USING BRUTALLY EFFECTIVE TACTICS, ACCU FIRST DISMEMBERED THE EPL GUERRILLAS (THOUSANDS OF EPL HAVE SINCE SURRENDERED), AND, IN MORE RECENT YEARS, HAS MOVED AGAINST THE FARC AND ELN. POLOFF ALSO LEARNED SOMETHING OF THE PARAMILITARIES' INTERNATIONAL TIES, -- INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS OF HAVING RECEIVED MATERIAL ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. AND OTHER FOREIGN MULTINATIONALS, AND TRAINING BY FOREIGN MERCENARIES (MORE ON THIS VIA SEPTEL). THE ENTRANCE OF NARCO-TRAFFICKERS INTO THE REGION WAS ALSO DISCUSSED, AS WAS THE PARAMILITARY ROLE IN THE WAR AGAINST PABLO ESCOBAR OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL. A NUMBER OF INTERLOCUTORS ADVOCATED THAT "THE CORDOBA MODEL" BE ADOPTED BY COLOMBIA NATIONWIDE. (THIS IS PART II IN A SERIES OF CABLES REPORTING ON RECENT POLOFF TRIP TO MONTERIA, CORDOBA.) CONFIDENTIAL

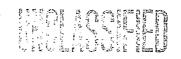
PAGE 03 BOGOTA 14108 01 OF 04 291943Z END SUMMARY.

2. (C) POLOFF TRAVELED TO THE BASEBALL-PLAYING, CATTLE-RAISING AND COTTON-GROWING TOWN OF MONTERIA, CORDOBA ON DECEMBER 11-13. NESTLED ALONG THE FERTILE BANKS OF THE SINU RIVER (WHICH FEEDS INTO THE CARIBBEAN 40 MILES AWAY), THE TOWN OF 365,000 IS THE CAPITAL OF CORDOBA DEPARTMENT -- AND PERHAPS THE MOST SOLIDLY PRO-PARAMILITARY BURG IN ALL COLOMBIA. EVERY LOCAL INTERLOCUTOR WITH WHOM POLOFF SPOKE -- POLITICIANS, RANCHERS, JOURNALISTS, ACADEMICS AND OTHERS -- FREELY ADMITTED (SOME PRIVATELY, OTHERS: PUBLICLY) THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PARAMILITARIES. "AS BAD AS THEY ARE," THESE PERSONS ASSERTED, THE PARAMILITARIES ARE "LESS BAD" THAN THE GUERRILLAS WHICH PREVIOUSLY LAID WASTE TO CORDOBA AND THE URABA REGION. THE GUERRILLAS SIMPLY HAD TO GO -- "AT ANY COST." AND BECAUSE OF THE PARAMILITARIES, MOST OF CORDOBA NOW ENJOYS A PEACE A NUMBER OF COLOMBIANS WOULD LITERALLY KILL FOR. "AFTER ALL," ONE SAID, "WE DID."

THE CAST OF CHARACTERS

3. (8) IN THE WAKE OF THE DECEMBER 11 PEACE CONFERENCE (REF A),	•
POLOFF MET WITH A VARIETY OF PERSONS IN TOWN, ALL OF WHOM MORE OR	
LESS OPENLY INDICATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE "SELF-DEFENSE	•
FORCES."	1 4 (7)
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CORDOBA, YESTERDAY.

CORDOBA IS AN ISLAND OF RELATIVE PEACE TODAY. EIGHT YEARS AGO, GUERRILLAS OF THE EPL (AS WELL AS OF THE ELN AND FARC) HAD THE REGION ON ITS KNEES.

> 1.4(D) B6 --

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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-08 ACDE-00 INLB-01 AID-00 ARA-01 A - 00ACQ-01 CA-02 CCO-00 CEA-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DEAE-00 CTME-00 INL-01 DINT-00 DOEE-00 DOTE-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 EB-00 EXIM-01 OIGO-01 E-00 FAAE-00 FBIE-00 FBO-01 FRB-00 H-01 IMMC-01 IM-01 TEDE-00 INR-00

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INSE-00	IO-00	ITC-01	JUSE-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00
MMP-00	M-00	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01
OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00
STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	DTC-01
SGHD-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00
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P 291903Z DEC 98

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6568

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: X6(1.6)

TAGS: PINS, SNAR, PTER, ECON, PHUM, MASS, ASEC, PGOV, PINR, CO SUBJECT: THE PARAS FIGHT BACK AGAINST GUERRILLAS AND NARCOS (PART II OF TRIP REPORT TO MONTERIA, A COLOMBIAN "PARA"-DISE)

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A FAMILY IN TOWN, PEOPLE REPEATEDLY SAID, THAT HAD NOT HAD SOMEONE KIDNAPPED OR KILLED BY THE GUERRILLAS.

6. (\$\mathbb{g}) BUT NO MORE. SPOKE OF DRIVING FOR HOURS INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE WITHOUT BODYGUARDS AND WITHOUT FEAR OF GUERRILLA ATTACK. THE TOWN IS FREE OF ROADBLOCKS OR POLICE PATROLS, AND POLOFF DROVE INTO THE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS UNCHALLENGED (A FIRST ANYWHERE IN COLOMBIA). INDEED, THE LOCAL ELITES SEPARATELY SPOKE SO POSITIVELY OF THEIR SUCCESSES AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS THAT MANY URGED THE PASTRANA GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT "THE CORDOBA MODEL" AS THE BASIS FOR THE

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COUNTER-INSURGENCY WAR NATIONWIDE.	1 4(D
TOLD POLOFF THAT IT ALL BEGAN JUST LIKE THE MEL	1.4(D)
GIBSON MOVIE, "RANSOM". VICTIMS' FAMILIES DECLARED A MORATORIUM	
ON PAYMENTS, DECIDING IT WAS BOTH CHEAPER AND A MORE PERMANENT	ř.
SOLUTION TO USE THE SAME MONEY TO FIGHT THE GUERRILLAS THAN TO	
CONFIDENTIAL	•
PAGE 03 BOGOTA 14108 02 OF 04 291943Z	
PAY-THEM EXTORTION.	
7. (8) THAT THE COLOMBIAN ARMY HELPED	1.4(D)
ESTABLISH THE LOCAL PARAMILITARY STRUCTURE (WHAT BECAME THE ACCU)	
IN THE LATE 1980S AND EARLY 1990S, SUPPLYING TRAINING, WEAPONS	*
AND AMMUNITION, AS WELL AS LOGISTICAL AND INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT.	*
BUT THE REAL CHANGE, ARGUED, CAME	1.4(D)
IN THE EARLY 1990S, WHEN THE ARMY AUGMENTED THE LOCAL MILITARY	
PRESENCE FROM A BATTALION TO A BRIGADE (THE 11TH BRIGADE), AFTER	
THE KILLING OF COLONEL DIAZ, THE BATTALION'S COMMANDER. THE	•
LOCAL PRIVATE SECTOR, HE RECOUNTED, BOUGHT LAND, TOOLS, VEHICLES,	
AND GAS, AND PAID THE SALARIES FOR COUNTER-GUERRILLA POLICE AND	
ARMY UNITS TO BE DEPLOYED. THE POLICE, THE ARMY'S FIRST MOBILE	
BRIGADE, AND THE PARAMILITARIES THEN PUSHED SOUTH ACROSS THE	Ng and
DEPARTMENT, IN A VERY COORDINATED FASHION. AFTER THE ARMY MOVED	
THROUGH, THE POLICE AND PARAMILITARIES ESTABLISHED PERMANENT	•
OUTPOSTS.	
8. (%) THE TACTICS EMPLOYED WERE BRUTALLY EFFICIENT: IMMEDIATE	•
AND MASSIVE RETALIATION. WHEN THE EPL KILLED A WELL-KNOWN	,
KIDNAPPED RANCHER, 15 LOCAL LABOR LEADERS WERE KILLED THE VERY	
NEXT DAY. (THE BANK TELLERS UNION, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS EPL-	•
AFFILIATED, TELLERS ALLEGEDLY IDENTIFIED PERSONS WHO WERE LOOKING	4
TO ABANDON THE AREA AFTER HAVING DEPOSITED LARGE SUMS OF CASH	
FROM THE SALES OF THEIR FARMS; THE EPL THEN KIDNAPPED THEM.)	
EVERY TIME THE EPL KIDNAPPED, AND OTHERS EXPLAINED,	1.4(D)
15 TO 20 PRESUMED EPL SUPPORTERS DIED. PRETTY SOON, THE EPL SAW	1.1(D)
THE DIMINISHING RETURNS AND CEASED, MOVING TO CATTLE-RUSTLING	
INSTEAD ONLY TO GIVE UP ON THAT AS WELL WHEN THE RANCHERS	4 · •
PURSUED A "ZERO TOLERANCE" POLICY WITH ANYONE WHO BOUGHT STOLEN	
CATTLE.	
CONFIDENTIAL	•
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1101 01 BOGOIA 14108 02 OF 04 291943Z	
9. (\$) THE 1990-92 WAR AGAINST THE EPL CAME "AT A VERY HIGH	4.4(5)
SOCIAL COST", "WITH LOTS OF DEATHS AND	1.4(D)
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ON ALL SIDES." IN THE END, THOUGH,	
JPWARDS OF 1500 ARMED EPL SURRENDERED IN CORDOBA DEPARTMENT ALONE	
WHEN A PEACE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN 1992. ON ITS OWN	
INITIATIVE, THE CORDOBA RANCHERS ASSOCIATION ("FEGACOR"), THROUGH	
THE FOUNDATION FOR PEACE IN CORDOBA ("FUNPAZCOR"), FREELY	. , -
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PROVIDED 10,000 HECTARES OF FARM AND CATTLE-GRAZING LANDS TO THE
"REINSERTED" EPL. WHERE ARE THEY NOW?, ASKED POLOFF. SOME ARE
NOW IN THE POLICE AND SOME ARE IN THE ARMY; OTHERS HAVE JOINED
THE PARAMILITARIES. STILL OTHERS ARE FARMERS, CATTLEMEN OR HAVE
GONE INTO PRIVATE BUSINESS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE DEPARTMENT.
MOST RECENTLY, ANOTHER 225 EPL "DISSIDENTS" SURRENDERED NOT TO
THE GOVERNMENT, BUT DIRECTLY TO
THE PARTY 1008

1.4(D)

... AND TODAY

10. (\$\mathcal{Z}\$) BUT THE FARC HAS YET TO BE TAUGHT THE SAME LESSON.

(NOTE: AFTER BEING ROUTED FROM THE REGION IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE FARC IS CURRENTLY ATTEMPTING A RETURN TO THE DEPARTMENT, WITH SEVERAL MILITARY FRONTS PUSHING BACK INTO SOUTHWESTERN CORDOBA FROM ANTIQUIA DEPARTMENT. END NOTE.) THE RANCHER CONFESSED MATTER-OF-FACTLY THAT HE AND FELLOW RANCHERS WERE BEHIND THE RECENT KILLINGS OF SIX LOCAL BUTCHERS, WHO HAD SLAUGHTERED STEERS RUSTLED BY THE FARC. "ZERO TOLERANCE", HE SAID (IN ENGLISH). PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW, HE EXPLAINED DRILY, THAT BUSINESS DEALINGS INVOLVING STOLEN PROPERTY, THE FARC, OR BOTH, ARE JUST NOT ACCEPTABLE.

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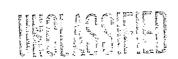
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	ACQ-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CEA-01	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	INL-01	DEAE-00	DINT-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	EXIM-01	OIGO-01	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	FBO-01	FRB-00	H-01	IMMC-01	IM-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
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USCINCSO MIAMI FL
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AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 04 BOGOTA 014108

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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: X6(1.6)

TAGS: PINS, SNAR, PTER, ECON, PHUM, MASS, ASEC, PGOV, PINR, CO SUBJECT: THE PARAS FIGHT BACK AGAINST GUERRILLAS AND NARCOS (PART II OF TRIP REPORT TO MONTERIA, A COLOMBIAN "PARA"-DISE)

REF: BOGOTA 13823

NOTED THAT THE LAST TIME THE FARC
INITIATED LOCAL URBAN TERRORISM WAS IN 1996. THERE WERE A HIGH
NUMBER OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES, HE SAID, WHEN THE CATTLEMAN'S
ASSOCIATION WAS CAR-BOMBED, AS WAS THE DEPARTMENTAL ASSEMBLY
BUILDING. FUNPAZCOR'S HEADQUARTERS (DIRECTLY ACROSS THE STREET
FROM THE MAIN POLICE STATION) WAS BOMBED TWICE.

the second of

1.4(D)

1.4(D)

1.4(D)

THE "AUTO-DEFENSAS" SUBSEQUENTLY TRACKED DOWN AND KILLED 14 PRESUMED FARC EXPLOSIVES EXPERTS -- AND THE TERROR CAMPAIGN CEASED.

12. (\$\sigma) URBAN MONTERIA HAS BEEN QUIET EVER SINCE.

EXPLAINED (AND OTHERS CONFIRMED) THAT BUSINESS GROUPS KILLED OFF
THE FARC'S URBAN "MILICIANOS," AND THAT SOME "SOCIAL CLEANSING"
HAD BEEN CONDUCTED (AND CONTINUES OCCASIONALLY) AGAINST BEGGARS
AND OTHER "UNDESIRABLES." THE PROOF IT HAS WORKED, HE NOTED WITH
CIVIC PRIDE, IS THAT DESPITE 40,000 URBAN INTERNALLY DISPLACED
PERSONS (WHO HAVE FLED TO MONTERIA TO ESCAPE VIOLENCE IN OTHER
DEPARTMENTS), DEPRESSED COTTON PRICES, LITTLE LOCAL INDUSTRY, 60

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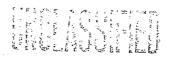
PERCENT OF THE POPULATION "LIVING IN MISERY", AND AN 18 PERCENT

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, THERE IS VERY LITTLE CRIME -- AND ZERO BEGGING
-- IN TOWN. STILL, HE ARGUED, THESE ARE NOT "DEATH SQUADS IN THE

CLASSICAL SENSE". THAT, HE SAID, IS USUALLY THE POLICE

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THEMSELVES: SUCH AS IN THE RECENT KILLINGS OF ALL MEMBERS OF A GANG THAT ROBBED HOUSES "AND NO ONE COMPLAINS."	
THE PARAS' INTERNATIONAL TIES	
=======================================	
13. (S) THE PARAMILITARIES HAVE ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED MATERIAL,	• .
TRAINING AND IDEOLOGICAL SUPPORT FROM A VARIETY OF FOREIGN	· 1 4/D
SOURCES, INCLUDING AMERICANS. NOTED THAT, WHILE	1.4(D)
MUCH ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON TRAINING PROVIDED IN THE LATE	_
1980S/EARLY 1990S BY	1.4(D)
] ,
THERE HAVE	
BEEN SEVERAL "MORE IMPORTANT" ROUNDS OF FOREIGN TRAINING SINCE	
THEN. TWO OTHER ISRAELI TEAMS HAVE TRAINED THE PARAMILITARIES IN	•
THE PAST FEW YEARS, HE SAID, AS HAD A TEAM LED BY A RETIRED	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
FRENCH ARMY GENERAL. (NOTE: THE FORMATION OR TRAINING OF	production of the
PARAMILITARY GROUPS IN COLOMBIA HAS BEEN ILLEGAL EVER SINCE THE	
PROMULGATION OF DECREE 180 OF 1988, IF NOT BEFORE. END NOTE.)	and the second second
	1.4(D)
14. (\$1) CARLOS CASTANO WAS AN AVID READER OF MILITARY HISTORY,	
WHILE THAT TWO	1.4(D)
AMERICAN MERCENARIES ("FROM 'SOLDIER OF FORTUNE' MAGAZINE,	* * * * *
BOULDER, COLORADO") HAD JOINED THE "PEPES" ORGANIZATION DURING	
THE EARLY 1990S FIGHT AGAINST PABLO ESCOBAR, HE STATED THAT HE	
WAS UNAWARE OF ANY CURRENT U.S. MERCENARY INVOLVEMENT WITH ACCU.	
"BUT THEN, I'M NOT PRIVY TO EVERY SINGLE THING ACCU DOES." HE	
€ONFIDENTIAL →	
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	* *
RECOMMENDED POLOFF READ 'SOF' MAGAZINE, WHOSE JOURNALISTS HAVE	
COME THROUGH REPEATEDLY IN RECENT MONTHS; THERE COULD WELL BE	
U.S. CITIZEN TRAINERS, HE SURMISED, THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF.	
15. (8) DURING A TIRADE AGAINST THE "REACTIVE AND INEFFECTIVE COLOMBIAN ARMY",	1
CODOMBIAN ARMI,	1.4(D)
	` /
ANGRILY LAMENTED THAT "NOT ONE GODDAMNED HELICOPTER WE HAVE BEEN	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
USING IN THE SOUTH OF BOLIVAR (IN THE ACCU FIGHT AGAINST THE ELN)	
HAS COME FROM THE ARMY. NOT ONE." (NOTE: THE ACCU/AUC FORCES	
HAVE BEEN USING HELICOPTERS TO GREAT EFFECT IN THEIR FIGHT TO	
CONQUER THE ELN'S SANCTUARIES IN SOUTHERN BOLIVAR. THE HELOS	
HAVE BEEN USED CHIEFLY FOR WEAPONS AND AMMO RESUPPLIES, COMMAND	
MOBILITY, AIRBORNE SURVEILLANCE AND MEDEVAC PURPOSES. END NOTE.)	
HOLE.	No. or
16. (\$) INSTEAD, THE HELICOPTERS "HAVE	4 4(17)
EITHER BEEN COMMERCIALLY CONTRACTED LOCALLY,	1.4(D)
	1.4(D)
	,
<u> </u>	,
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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-08 ACDE-00 INLB-01 AID-00 ARA-01 A-00 ACQ-01 CA-02 CCO-00 CEA-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 INL-01 DEAE-00 DINT-00 DOEE-00 DOTE-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 EB-00 EXIM-01 OIGO-01 E-00 FAAE-00 FBIE-00 FBO-01 FRB-00 H-01 IMMC-01 IM-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 INSE-00 IO-00 ITC-01 JUSE-00 LAB-01 L-01 ADS-00 MMP-00 M-00 DCP-01 NRCE-00 NSAE-00 OCS-03 OIC-02 OMB-01 OPIC-01 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 P-00 SP-00 SSO-00 STR-00 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 ASDS-01 DTC-01 .SGHD-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-01 DRL-02 G-00 SAS-00

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P 291903Z DEC 98

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6570

/037W

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCSO MIAMI FL

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AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 04 OF .04 BOGOTA 014108

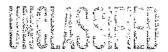
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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

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TAGS: PINS, SNAR, PTER, ECON, PHUM, MASS, ASEC, PGOV, PINR, CO SUBJECT: THE PARAS FIGHT BACK AGAINST GUERRILLAS AND NARCOS (PART II OF TRIP REPORT TO MONTERIA, A COLOMBIAN "PARA"-DISE)

REF: BOGOTA 13823

1.4(D)

PABLO ESCOBAR AND THE NARCO WARS

18. (5) POLOFF WAS A FLY ON THE WALL FOR A SURREAL ENCOUNTER, OVER SCRAMBLED EGGS AND FRIED PLANTAINS, WITH

1.4(D)

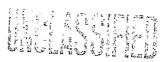
THE THREE REMINISCED ABOUT PAST BATTLES, SWAPPING "WAR STORIES" (LITERALLY), AND, FROM THEIR VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES, ATTEMPTING TO EDUCATE POLOFF ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE LOCAL CONFLICTS AND THE ROLE OF NARCOTICS IN THOSE CONFLICTS.

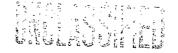
19. (\$) THE GUERRILLA WAR IN CORDOBA FACILITATED THE ARRIVAL OF NARCO-TRAFFICKERS TO THE REGION. AS THE GUERRILLA VIOLENCE INCREASED IN THE LATE 1980S AND EARLY '90S, LOCAL FARMERS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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RANCHERS ABANDONED THE AREA IN DROVES, SELLING CHEAP TO RICH
NARCOS WHO WERE ALL TOO HAPPY TO LEGITIMIZE THEMSELVES, IN THE
COLOMBIAN TRADITION, BY BECOMING LARGE LANDOWNERS. THE OCHOA
FAMILY (OF MEDELLIN CARTEL INFAMY) BOUGHT EXTENSIVE LAND-HOLDINGS
AND OTHER INVESTMENTS IN THE AREA, AS DID RANCHER AND NARCO FIDEL
CASTANO (THE OLDER BROTHER, NOW GENERALLY PRESUMED DEAD, OF
ACCU'S CARLOS CASTANO).

20. (\$\forall) THE NARCO-TIES OF MANY WERE NOT KNOWN DEFINITIVELY WHEN THEY FIRST MOVED TO THE AREA, BUT THEIR WEALTH MADE THEM A NATURAL TARGET FOR THE GUERRILLAS -- AND ALLIES OF THE ALREADY-FORMED LOCAL "AUTO-DEFENSAS". THE DISPLACED RANCHERS, HOWEVER, CLEARLY HAD -- AND HAVE -- THEIR DIFFERENCES WITH THE NEWLY-ARRIVED NARCO-RICH. WHILE THERE IS LITTLE COCA CULTIVATION IN THE AREA, MANY OF THE NARCOS USED THEIR RANCHES FOR CLANDESTINE

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AIRSTRIPS, MOVING COCAINE OUT OF COLOMBIA ON ITS WAY TO U.S. AND WORLD MARKETS.

21. (8) BUT THERE ARE NARCOS, AND THEN THERE ARE NARCOS. PABLO ESCOBAR'S ALL-OUT WAGING OF WAR AGAINST THE STATE WAS SIMPLY UNACCEPTABLE BY ANY MEASURE TO THE CONSERVATIVE-MINDED FOLK OF CORDOBA (INCLUDING THE CASTANO BROTHERS). ESCOBAR HEAVILY TAXED ALL THE OTHER NARCOS, KILLING THOSE WHO REFUSED TO PAY. HE HIRED THE ELN FOR EIGHT YEARS TO WAGE WAR FOR HIM, PLANTING BOMBS, WORKING WITH MEDELLIN BASQUE DESCENDANTS AND THE SPANISH "ETA" TERRORIST GROUP, AND EVEN WORKING JOINTLY WITH NARCO-

PARAMILITARIES IN ASSAULTS AGAINST THE STATE.

1.4(D)

HE ALSO HIRED THE INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST

"CARLOS, THE JACKAL," SAID

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1.4(D)

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GEORGE BUSH AND TO BOMB THE UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK. WHILE
"THE JACKAL" VISITED MONTERIA TWICE, SAID, THE 1.4(D
PLOTS WERE NEVER CONSUMMATED.

22. (8) BY THIS TIME, FIDEL CASTANO, AFTER HAVING ALREADY BEATEN THE EPL, HAD 2,000 PARAMILITARIES WORKING FOR HIM IN THE CORDOBA AND URABA REGIONS. SAYING "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH," HE TURNED HIS SIGHTS AGAINST PABLO ESCOBAR, HIS FORMER NARCO-ASSOCIATE, AND BECAME THE MILITARY LEADER OF "THE PEPES", "THOSE PERSECUTED BY PABLO ESCOBAR". (YOUNGER BROTHER CARLOS -- NOW HEAD OF THE ACCU -- SERVED AS "PEPES" CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE.) "EVERYONE WORKED WITH THE PEPES," THE THREE TOLD POLOFF, "THE AUTO-DEFENSAS, THE POLICE, THE ARMY, THE DEA, TWO MERCENARIES RECRUITED VIA 'SOLDIER OF FORTUNE' MAGAZINE, EVERYONE." FIDEL CASTANO TURNED ESCOBAR'S RULES AGAINST HIM, DECLARING A MORATORIUM ON ASSISTANCE TO ESCOBAR. "ANYONE WHO PAYS TAXES TO ESCOBAR, I KILL." HE THEN PROCEEDED TO DO SO. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE POLICE, FIDEL WIPED OUT ALL THE ESCOBAR-RELATED NARCOS IN MONTERIA AND CORDOBA.

ISSUES IN PART III

23. (\$\forall \text{ In the next installment: Regional issues along Colombia's north coast, including, narcotics-trafficking today; the Role of the armed forces against narcos, paramilitaries and Guerrillas; the paramilitary offensives in the Region, and the Reasoning behind their call for national peace accords. Kamman

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