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ADS-00 INFO L0G-00 AGRE-00 AID-01 AMAD-01 ARA-01 CTME-00 DPR-01 FBIE-00 INRE-00 INR-01 ID-19 JUSE-00 P-02 OMB-01 PM-01 L-03 NSAE-00 **GIC-05** 0IG-01

SP-01 TRSE-00 USIE-00 /036W -----617DE3 030054Z /64

R 022320Z MAY 91
FM AMEMBASSY BOGDTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4916
INFO DEA WASHDC
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCSO HOWARD AFB PM//DDN//SC //

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN//SCJ2//SCJ3/SCJ5/SCDC//

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN//SCFA/SOCSOUTH//

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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STATE FOR ARAZAND INM IS/FPC/CDR WHITE HOUSE FOR ONDCP AND MERCARTMENT OF STATE MR Cases Only: (C) DECLASSIFY CIA FOR DCI/CNC (//) RELEASE **EO** Citations () DECLASSIFY () EXCISE DEA FOR OC, OF, OT, OM IN PART () DENY CONFIDENTIAL TS authority to () DELETE Non-Responsive Info () S or () C OADR () CLASSIFY as FOIA Exemptions () DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C OADR Exemptions CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 06637 01 OF 02 030050Z DIA FOR DB-3C4, DAH-5, DB-5SA, JSI, JTIC

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN ARMY SECOND DIVISION COMMANDER

REQUESTS USG ASSISTANCE: RECONNAISSANCE AND ERADICATION

OF ELN COCA CULTIVATIONS

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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- DURING AN APRIL 27 MEETING IN BUCARAMANGA WITH INM/P PROGRAM OFFICER AND NAS POLICE PROJECT MANAGER, THE ARMY SECOND DIVISION ZONE COMMANDER, MAJOR GENERAL MANU-L SANMIGUEL BUENAVENTURA, REQUESTED USG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING AND DESTROYING APPROXIMATELY 5,000 HECTARES OF COCA THAT THE ARMY BELIEVES IS DIRECTLY FINANCING ARMY OF NATIONAL LIBERATION (ELN) INSURGENT OPERATIONS. THE COCA PLANTATIONS ARE LOCATED MAINLY IN VALLEYS ALONG THE EASTERN SLOPE OF THE SAN LUCAS MOUNTAINS IN SOUTHERN BOLIVAR DEPARTMENT. OFFICIALS RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO SAN MIGUEL'S REQUEST FOR RECONNAISSANCE, AND THE NAS IS COORDINATING THE USE OF A COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE (CNP) PATHLINK-EQUIPPED THRUSH AIRCRAFT, TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECOND DIVISION CHIEF INTEL OFFICER. BASED ON THE RECONNAISSANCE DATA, GEN. SANMIGUEL INTENDS TO REQUEST, THROUGH HIS CHAIN OF COMMAND, AUTHORIZATION FOR U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN DESTROYING ELN COCA CULTIVATIONS.
- 3. GENERAL SANMIGUEL EXPRESSED TEEP CONCERN OVER THE RAPID INCREASE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES BY THE ELN IN CONFIDENTIAL

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HIS AREA OF OPERATIONS, WHICH INCLUDES THE SAN LUCAS
MOUNTAINS. SANMIGUEL ALSO WORRIED THAT THE ELN'S COCA
PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING COULD ALLOW THEM TO BECOME
COLOMBIA'S "THIRD CARTEL." INM/P OFFICER SPECULATED
THAT INCREASED COCA PRODUCTION IN THE AREA COULD ALSO
SERVE AS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF RAW MATERIAL FOR NORTH
COAST TRAFFICKERS.

4. GENERAL SANMIGUEL'S DETERMINATION TO PASS THE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO ERADICATE COCA THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS CONTRASTEPD SHARPLY WITH THE VIEWS OF HIS INTEL CHIEF, LT. COL. HECTOR MEDINA. MEDINA, WHO SPOKE WITH U.S. OFFICIALS PRIOR TO THE MEETING WITH THE GENERAL, FAVORED CLANDESTINE FUMIGATION OF ALL COCA CULTIVATIONS IN THE AREA. HE EVEN SUGGESTED USING CAMOUFLAGED TAIL NUMBERS AND PAINTED AIRCRAFT. ALTHOUGH JUST AS ANXIOUS TO ATTACK THE COCA CULTIVATIONS, GEN. SANMIGUEL HAD A MORE FAR-SIGHTED APPROACH AND INSISTED THAT THE REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL (I.E., FUMIGATION) ASSISTANCE BE HANDLED VIA OFFICIAL



CHANNELS. HE NOTED THAT THE RESPONSE MUST COME FROM THE ARMY HIGH COMMAND, IN COORDINATION WITH THE

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.

5. NAS WILL CARRY OUT INITIAL RECONNAISANCE OVERFLIGHTS OF THE APPROPRIATE AREAS ON MAY 2, AND IF NECESSARY, THE FOLLOWING DAY. CURRENT PLANS ARE TO HAND-DELIVER THE PATHLINK INTEL PACKAGES TO LT. COL. MEDINA AND GEN. SANMIGUEL DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 6.

6. COMMENT: DURING THE MEETING WITH LT. COL MEDINA, CONFIDENTIAL

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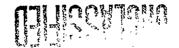
PAGE 04 BOGOTA 06637 01 DF 02 030050Z INM/P AND NAS OFFICERS HIGHLIGHTED THE VARIOUS CAPABILITIES OF THE PATHLINK-EQUIPPED THRUSH AIRCRAFT SEVERAL TIMES. NAS WILL CONTINUE TO STRESS THE VALUE OF THIS AIRCRAFT IN SPOTTING CL. DESTINE AIRSTRIPS AND LABORATORIES, IN ADDITION TO ITS USE TO IDENTIFY AND MAP COCA CULTIVATIONS. ONE RESULT OF INCREASED USE OF THE THRUSH IN THE AREA MAY BE GREATER INFORMATION EXCHANGE WITH THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE ON ELN NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES.

7. MILITARY COMMANDERS IN THE SECOND DIVISION SEEM DETERMINED TO SURVEY AND DESTROY COCA CULTIVATIONS

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STATE FOR ARA/AND INM
WHITE HOUSE FOR ONDCP AND NSC
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TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN ARMY SECOND DIVISION COMMANDER WHICH THEY ARE CONVINCED PROVIDE MAJOR FINANCING FOR INSURGENT ACTIVITIES. THE RECONNAISANCE MISSIONS WILL NOT POSE ANY MAJOR DIFFICULTIES. THE REAL HURDLE IS LIKELY TO BE OBTAINING PERMISSION FROM THE NATIONAL





CONFIDENTIAL COUNCIL OF DANGEROUS DRUGS. FALINO

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