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ACTION INM-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AGRE-00 AID-01 AMAD-01 ARA-01 CG-00
CTME-00 DPR-01 FBIE-00 INRE-00 INR-01 ID-19 JUSE-00
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OIG-01 OMB-01 PM-01 P-02
SP-01 TRSE-00 USIE-00 /036W
-----617DE3 030054Z /64

R 022320Z MAY 91
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
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

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 06637

STATE FOR ARA/AND INM
WHITE HOUSE FOR ONDCP AND
CIA FOR DCI/CNC
DEA FOR OC, OF, OT, OM
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

Date: 2/27/96

RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY
 DENY IN PART
 DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions _____
PA Exemptions _____

MR Cases Only:
EO Citations _____
_____ TS authority to
 CLASSIFY as S or C OADR
 DOWNGRADE TS to S or C OADR

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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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CP 11 LP 16
132264
FSC 124-3211

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2. 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. U.S. 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 DEEP CONCERN OVER THE RAPID INCREASE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES BY THE ELN IN
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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 CONTRASTED 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

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

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COUNCIL OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.
FALINO

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