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Page: 1

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UNCLASSIFIED PTQ5642

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06803 01 OF 02 162152Z
ACTION INL-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	AMAD-01	ARA-01
	CG-00	CTME-00	OASY-00	DINT-00	SRPP-00	EUR-01	OIGO-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-01	ADS-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PM-00	P-00	SP-00	TRSE-00	FMP-00	PMB-00	G-00

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R 162147Z JUL 96
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0360
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 USEU BRUSSELS
 DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 9704
 NSC WASHDC
 JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J3 CNOD//
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
 DIRONDCP WASHDC
 CIA WASHDC
 DIA WASHDC
 DEA WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 FBI WASHDC
 DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE
 SECDEF WASHDC//OCDEPS//
 NDIC JOHNSTOWN PA
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 06803 01 OF 02 162152Z
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY PANAMA
 AMEMBASSY LIMA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 006803

STATE FOR INL, ARA/AND; ARA/P; ARA/SOA; L.LEI
 NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS
 ONDCP FOR RICH PORTER
 SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR
 DATE/CASE ID: 5 FEB 2002 200102477

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
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Document Number: 1996BOGOTA06803

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

DEA FOR OF, OFL, AO, AX
JUSTICE OR CRIM. WARREN, RICHARD AND NDDS/VAN VLIET
FBI FOR DIV. 6
BRUSSELS FOR STICKNEY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: AERIAL ERADICATION IN GUAVIARE, CAQUETA AND PUTUMAYO: THINGS
HEAT UP AS DANTI AND COLAR INCREASE THE PRESSURE ON MIRAFLORES AND
ENVIRONS; COLAR LAUNCHES "OPERATION CONQUEST II" INTO CAQUETA AND
PUTUMAYO

REF: BOGOTA 06237

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. PLEASE SEE PARAGRAPH 7.

2. SUMMARY: REFTTEL REPORTED THE LAUNCHING OF "OPERATION CONQUEST II"
ON JUNE 27, 1996, A JOINT ANTI-NARCOTICS (DANTI) AND COLOMBIAN ARMY
(COLAR) INITIATIVE INTO MIRAFLORES AND ENVIRONS. DANTI REPORTED OVER
THE WEEKEND THAT POSSIBLY UP TO FOUR THOUSAND CAMPESINOS MOVED INTO
MIRAFLORES WITH THE CONFIRMED PURPOSE OF BLOCKING FURTHER ERADICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 06803 01 OF 02 162152Z
OF COCA IN THE AREA. ERADICATION HAS CONTINUED AT A BRISK PACE WITH
GROUND SUPPORT FROM THE COLAR. THE DANTI AND COLAR TOOK PRECAUTIONS
AND SECURED THE BASE AT SAN JOSE IN THE EVENT OF AN ATTEMPTED TAKE-OVER
BY NARCOTRAFFICKER SUPPORTED CAMPESINOS. THE COLAR LAUNCHED "OPERATION
CONQUEST II" LAST WEEK INTO THE CAQUETA AND PUTUMAYO. THE DANTI PLANS
TO LOCATE AT TRES ESQUINAS AND COMMENCE SPRAY OPERATIONS IN THAT AREA
THIS WEEK. END SUMMARY.

3. THE DANTI AND THE COLAR'S SECOND MOBILE BRIGADE STATIONED AT SAN
JOSE DEL GUAVIARE HAVE CONTINUED THE PUSH BEGUN JUNE 27 IN AN EFFORT TO
DISMANTLE THE COCA PRODUCING APPARATUS THAT SUSTAINS THE TOWN OF
MIRAFLORES. THE PUSH HAS BEEN RELENTLESS WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF
RESIDENTS MAKING THE EXODUS OUT TO VILLAVICENCIO, META DEPARTMENT, THE
FIRST STOP-OVER OUT OF THE AREA. DESPITE THE PUSH, MANY HUNDREDS HAVE
CHOSEN TO REMAIN. OVER THE WEEKEND, THE DANTI REPORTED THE INCURSION
OF POSSIBLY UP TO FOUR THOUSAND CAMPESINOS INTO MIRAFLORES.
REPORTEDLY, THE CAMPESINOS BEGAN ARRIVING JULY 12 BY BOAT FROM THE
SURROUNDING VILLAGES OF TAMACHIPAN, CALAMAR AND OTHERS IN A DISPLAY OF
SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE REMAINING RESIDENTS IN MIRAFLORES. THE
VILLAGES OF TOMACHIPAN AND CALAMAR ALSO CONTROL LARGE COCA GROWING
AREAS AND THUS HAVE MUCH TO LOSE IF MIRAFLORES FALLS. REPORTEDLY THE
SITUATION IS TENSE. UPDATED REPORTS WILL FOLLOW AS APPROPRIATE.

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1996BOGOTA06803

Page: 3
Channel: n/a

4. ACCORDING TO DANTI AND COLAR INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, THEIR AIM IS TO TAKE OVER MIRAFLORES, EFFECTIVELY SHUTTING DOWN COCA OPERATIONS OUT OF THAT AREA. COL LEONARDO GALLEG0, DANTI COMMANDER, TOLD NAS DIRECTOR THAT HIS ELITE JUNGLE UNIT AND THE COLAR HAVE SECURED THE DANTI BASE AND STILL RETAIN CONTROL OVER THE MAIN STREET, WHICH SERVES AS THE TOWN'S AIRCRAFT RUNWAY. REFUELING OPERATIONS FOR THE THRUSHES, IN MIRAFLORES UP UNTIL JULY 12, WERE MOVED BACK TO SAN JOSE. THE HELICOPTERS ARE STILL REFUELING AT MIRAFLORES. AERIAL ERADICATION OF

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BOGOTA 06803 01 OF 02 162152Z
COLAR SECURED AREAS HAS CONTINUED UNINTERRUPTED. THE ONLY IMPEDIMENT HAS BEEN THE WEATHER. SEPTEL WILL PROVIDE UPDATED ERADICATION AND VERIFICATION FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD MAY 9 TO THE PRESENT.

5. COL GALLEG0 REPORTED THAT AS A SAFETY PRECAUTION, THE COLAR HAS SECURED THE AIRPORT AT SAN JOSE IN THE EVENT THE CAMPESINOS ATTEMPT A TAKE-OVER SIMILAR TO THAT OF DECEMBER 1994. GALLEG0 SAID, "WE ARE READY THIS TIME AND HOPEFULLY A TAKE-OVER WILL NOT MATERIALIZE." NEVERTHELESS, HE HAS TAKEN THE PRECAUTION OF ALERTING THE AIR FORCE BASE AT APIAY (CLOSE TO VILLAVICENCIO) OF A POSSIBLE MOVE OF THE THRUSHES THERE IF NECESSARY. THE DANTI AND THE NAS HAVE A CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR THE USE OF THE BASE AT APIAY, WHICH GALLEG0 HAS RE-ACTIVATED JUST IN CASE. ALSO, THE CONTRACTOR HAS FINALLY FINISHED THE EMERGENCY RUNWAY WITHIN THE DANTI BASE AT SAN JOSE, ALLOWING FOR EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF A TAKEOVER OF THE AIRPORT. MINISTER OF DEFENSE ESGUERRA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR JULY 15, THAT GOC "WILL NOT BE BLACKMAILED" AT MIRAFLORES.

6. EARLY THE WEEK OF JULY 8, THE COLAR'S SECOND MOBILE BRIGADE LAUNCHED "OPERATION CONQUEST II" INTO CAQUETA AND PUTUMAYO DEPARTMENTS. ARMY UNITS ARE PRINCIPALLY OUT TO DESTROY CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES AND

UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED PTQ5643

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06803 02 OF 02 162152Z
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Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1996BOGOTA06803

Page: 4
Channel: n/a

-----4F19F1 162152Z /38

R 162147Z JUL 96
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0361
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USEU BRUSSELS
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 9705
NSC WASHDC
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J3 CNOD//
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
DIRONDCP WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
DEA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
FBI WASHDC
DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE
SECDEF WASHDC//OCDEPS//
NDIC JOHNSTOWN PA
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 06803 02 OF 02 162152Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BOGOTA 006803

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NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS
ONDCP FOR RICH PORTER
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
DEA FOR OF, OFL, AO, AX
JUSTICE OR CRIM. WARREN, RICHARD AND NDDS/VAN VLIET
FBI FOR DIV. 6
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Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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Page: 5
Channel: n/a

RUNWAYS USED BY THE NARCOTRAFFICKERS. COL GALLEGO REPORTED THAT THE ARMY IS ALSO SECURING LARGE COCA FIELDS. HE PLANS TO BEGIN ERADICATION THIS WEEK. TO ACCOMPLISH ERADICATION IN THE AREA, THE DANTI WILL MOVE TWO THRUSHES CURRENTLY STATIONED IN NEIVA AND OPERATING AGAINST OPIUM POPPY TO TRES ESQUINAS. REGRETTABLY, BUT DUE TO INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES, THE TRANSFER OF AIRCRAFT WILL EFFECTIVELY SHUT DOWN OPERATIONS AGAINST POPPY FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. A THIRD THRUSH WILL BE MOVED FROM SAN JOSE. LOGISTICS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE DANTI USING THEIR OWN RESOURCES. BILLETING FOR PILOTS, CREWS AND AMERICAN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 06803 02 OF 02 162152Z
INSTRUCTOR PILOT/MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE (FAC). THE FAC BASE AT LARANDIA, APPROXIMATELY 60 MILES NORTHWEST OF TRES ESQUINAS, IS AVAILABLE AS BACK-UP IN THE EVENT BILLETING IS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE AT TRES ESQUINAS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY EFFORTS MADE TO EXPEDITE ARRIVAL OF CASA B 212. WITH ONE OF THE TWO DC-3'S STILL NOT FULLY OPERATIONAL, THE DANTI IS LIMITED IN ITS CAPABILITY OF MOVING HERBICIDE, MEN AND EQUIPMENT TO THE NEW FORWARD OPERATING LOCATION AT TRES ESQUINAS.
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Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 5

UNCLASSIFIED