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ACTION ALS-01**RELEASE IN FULL**INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 OPR-01 ARA-01 AMAD-01 PER-01 /005 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7060

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 10 BOGOTA 10850

FOR A/ALS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ALLOW
SUBJECT: DANGER PAY REPORT

REF: TELCON LOWE/GUYTON

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. POST REGRETS DELAY IN SUBMITTING DANGER PAY REPORT. AS PER AGREEMENT IN REFTELCON, WE ARE SUBMITTING DANGER PAY REPORT WHICH COVERS EVENTS FROM OUR LAST REPORT IN JUNE 1989 THROUGH MARCH 1990. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF UPDATING EVENTS SINCE THAT TIME, WHICH WILL BE REFLECTED IN OUR NEXT SUBMISSION. DANGER PAY FACTORS FORM (UNCLASSIFIED) IS BEING SUBMITTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER VIA DHL.

3. ATTACHMENT 1: DANGER FACTOR NARRATIVES AND SUMMARY

SINCE THE SUBMISSION OF THE JUNE 8, 1989, DANGER PAY FACTORS REPORT, SEVERAL INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED WHICH WARRANT THE CONTINUED SINGLING OUT OF BOGOTA AS A CRITICAL THREAT POST. THE MOST NOTABLE OCCURRENCE WAS THE REINSTATEMENT, BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE, OF THE EXTRADITION OF COLOMBIAN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNITED STATES. SURPRISINGLY, THIS ACTION DID NOT LEAD TO THE SPECIFIC TARGETING AND CONCOMMITANTLY TO AN INCREASED THREAT TO OFFICIAL AMERICANS OR FACILITIES. NONETHELESS, THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A DEVELOPMENT PROMPTED THE PRECAUTIONARY WITHDRAWAL OF ALL DEPENDENTS FROM COUNTRY DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER. HOWEVER, THERE WAS ESCALATION OF RANDOM NARCO-TERRORIST VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT COLOMBIA. IN ADDITION, THE GUERRILLAS CONTINUE AS A THREAT AS ILLUSTRATED ON SEPTEMBER 17 WHEN THEY LAUNCHED A

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Donna M. DiPaolo, Senior Reviewer

ROCKET-PROPELLED GRENADE ATTACK AGAINST THE CHANCERY. THROUGH VARIOUS COMMUNIQUE, INSURGENT ELEMENTS ALSO VENTED THEIR RAGE OVER LARGE POLICE AND MILITARY AID PACKAGES PROVIDED TO COLOMBIA BY THE UNITED STATES. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, ACTS OF TERRORISM, INSURGENCY, AND THE GENERAL LAWLESSNESS WHICH PLAGUES MOST OF COLOMBIA CONTINUED TO SUBJECT EMBASSY EMPLOYEES TO SUBSTANTIAL STRESS AS WELL AS TO CURTAIL ALREADY SEVERELY RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES, MORE SO THAN AT ANY TIME DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

A. ACTS OF VIOLENCE

COLOMBIA CONTINUED TO EARN ITS WELL-DESERVED REPUTATION AS THE MOST VIOLENT COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WITH A MURDER RATE EXCEEDING ANY NATION NOT AT WAR. DURING A SEVENMONTH PERIOD (JULY 1989-JANUARY 1990), APPROXIMATELY TEN THOUSAND COLOMBIANS LOST THEIR LIVES AS A RESULT OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, NARCO-TERRORISM, AND GUERRILLA ATTACKS. ALTHOUGH ACCURATE FIGURES ARE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN ON A COUNTRY-WIDE BASIS, POLICE OFFICIALS REPORT THAT SUBVERSIVE ASSASSINATIONS IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1989 TOTALED 1,419 VICTIMS, CONFIDENTIAL

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INCLUDING 324 CONFIRMED POLITICAL KILLINGS. ADDITIONALLY, NARCOTICS-RELATED ASSASSINATIONS ROSE BY NEARLY 140 DURING THE SAME PERIOD, CLAIMING 129 LIVES. A NUMBER OF SPECTACULAR ASSASSINATIONS BY NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR HIGHLIGHTED THE VULNERABILITY OF EVEN FIGURES AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF COLOMBIAN POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT. IN THE 90-DAY PERIOD BEGINNING MAY 30, PERSONS OPERATING ON THE ORDERS OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS KILLED A DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNOR, A DEPARTMENTAL POLICE CHIEF, TWO JUDGES AND, ON AUGUST 18, SENATOR LUIS CARLOS GALAN, A LEADING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. AS A RULE OF THUMB, TERRORIST ASSASSINATIONS REPRESENT LESS THAN 10 OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIOLENT DEATHS IN ANY GIVEN YEAR, WHICH APPEARS TO BE BORNE OUT BY THE MOST RECENT STATISTICS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1989.

MORE THAN 450 KIDNAPPINGS WERE OFFICIALLY REPORTED DURING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1989, MANY OF WHICH WERE ATTRIBUTED TO THE ELN GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION. HOWEVER, THESE FIGURES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ONLY A FRACTION OF SUCH INCIDENTS AS MANY KIDNAPPINGS, POSSIBLY MORE THAN 30 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL, ARE NOT REPORTED TO AUTHORITIES BY FAMILY MEMBERS DUE TO ABDUCTION DEMANDS PLACED BY THE KIDNAPPERS. GUERRILLA

GROUPS, WHICH IN LARGE PART FINANCE THEMSELVES THROUGH SUCH EXTORTION, DEMONSTRATED NOT ONLY SOPHISTICATED METHODS BUT ALSO AN ABILITY TO ABDUCT THEIR VICTIMS FROM WHAT WERE BELIEVED TO BE SECURE DWELLINGS. ADDED TO GUERRILLA KIDNAPPING WAS AN INCREASE IN KIDNAPPINGS

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7061

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 10 BOGOTA 10850

FOR A/ALS

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: ALOW
SUBJECT: DANGER PAY REPORT

COUNTRYWIDE BY DRUG MAFIA ELEMENTS WHOSE RESERVES OF LIQUID CASH HAVE DWINDLED WITH THE GOC OFFENSIVE ON THE MEDELLIN CARTEL AND THE KILLING OF ONE OF ITS LEADERS IN DECEMBER. IN MEDELLIN ALONE, AT LEAST 20 PEOPLE, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF COLOMBIA'S RICHEST FAMILIES, WERE KIDNAPPED IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS. IN BOGOTA, THE SON OF A LEADING POLITICAL FIGURE WAS KIDNAPPED NEAR HIS RESIDENCE DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS. THIS KIDNAPPING WAS IN AN AREA WHERE MANY EMBASSY OFFICIALS RESIDE, SHOP, AND DINE. THIS INCREASING BOLDNESS HAS BROUGHT INCREASED EMPHASIS OF EMBASSY RESIDENTIAL SECURITY EFFORTS DURING THE COURSE OF THE RATING PERIOD.

THE TREND CONTINUED THROUGH THE MONTHS OF JANUARY 1990, WITH A TOTAL OF 143 KNOWN ABDUCTIONS IN 18 DEPARTMENTS. FIFTY WERE ATTRIBUTED TO INSURGENT GROUPS AND ANOTHER 89 TO CRIMINAL ELEMENTS. AUTHORITIES HAVE ESTIMATED THAT MORE THAN \$5 MILLION IN RANSOM PAYMENTS WERE MADE IN THE FIRST MONTH OF 1990 ALONE.

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ACTS OF VIOLENCE PERPETRATED AGAINST PRIVATE AMERICANS WITHIN COLOMBIA DIMINISHED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, APPARENTLY A RESULT OF THREE SPECIFIC FACTORS: A MUCH GREATER POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE MAJOR URBAN CENTERS WHICH WAS INITIATED IN RESPONSE TO NARCOTICS EXTRADITION DECREES; A VERY STRONGLY WORDED TRAVEL WARNING TO AMERICAN TRAVELERS AND AMERICANS RESIDENT IN COLOMBIA THAT THEIR PRESENCE WITHIN COUNTRY SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THAT CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL; AND THE SUBSEQUENT ADDED EMPHASIS BY PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL AMERICANS ON PERSONAL SECURITY PRACTICES. DURING THE COURSE OF SEPTEMBER 1989, MANY MISSIONARY GROUPS REMOVED ALL AMERICAN PERSONNEL FROM THE COUNTRY, WHILE THE CANADIAN EMBASSY AND A NUMBER OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS EVACUATED NORTH AMERICAN DEPENDENTS, FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. ALTHOUGH NO KIDNAPPINGS OR SERIOUS CRIMINAL ASSAULTS AGAINST PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS WERE REPORTED, LARGE NUMBERS OF TELEPHONIC THREATS WERE RECEIVED BY AMERICAN CORPORATE OFFICERS, SCHOOLS, AND MISSIONARIES DURING THE POST-EVACUATION PERIOD. ON SEPTEMBER 5, TWO AMERICAN TV JOURNALISTS WERE SERIOUSLY INJURED WHEN A POWERFUL BOMB EXPLODED IN A MEDELLIN RESTAURANT. ALTHOUGH IT IS DOUBTFUL THEY WERE SPECIFICALLY TARGETED, THE INCIDENT BROUGHT HOME THE EVER-PRESENT DANGER IN COLOMBIA OF BEING AT THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME. THIS SPECIFIC INCIDENT AND THE RASH OF NARCO-TERRORIST RELATED BOMBINGS IN THE PRINCIPAL CITIES OF MEDELLIN, CALI, AND BOGOTA, WHICH TOTALED MORE THAN 460 BETWEEN MID-SEPTEMBER AND MID-OCTOBER, CAUSED A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE (EXCEEDING

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L IN REVENUES OF ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES AND COMMERCIAL SHOPPING CENTERS. DURING THIS SAME TIME PERIOD, AFTER-HOURS ACTIVITIES OF EMBASSY EMPLOYEES WERE DRASTICALLY CURTAILED TO AVOID THEIR BECOMING THE

UNINTENDED VICTIMS OF A TERRORIST BOMBING.

THE AMERICAN EMBASSY DID NOT ESCAPE A MONTH-LONG TELEPHONE TERRORISM CAMPAIGN WHICH AFFECTED MOST OF BOGOTA SOCIETY. DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, NO FEWER THAN 16 BOMB THREATS WERE RECEIVED AT THE CHANCERY.

DURING THE SEVEN-MONTH REPORTING PERIOD, THE EMBASSY RECEIVED AN AVERAGE OF ONE TELEPHONIC THREAT EVERY SEVEN DAYS. GIVEN THE PROPENSITY OF BOTH INSURGENT AND NARCO ELEMENTS TO UTILIZE EXPLOSIVE DEVICES IN THEIR TERRORIST CAMPAIGNS, ALL SUCH THREATS WERE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. DUE TO INTELLIGENCE REPORTS DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, ADDITIONAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WERE INSTITUTED TO PROTECT U.S. GOVERNMENT FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL. THESE INCLUDED THE PURCHASE OF BOMB DETECTION DEVICES WHICH SUBJECTED ALL EMBASSY EMPLOYEES TO MAGNITOMITOR AND PACKAGE INSPECTION AS WELL AS THE CLOSURE OF STREETS ADJACENT TO THE CHANCERY, AND ADDED POLICE SUPPORT.

IN ADDITION TO THE SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF BOMB THREATS RECEIVED, A LARGE NUMBER OF GENERAL THREATS AGAINST EMPLOYEES AND FACILITIES ALSO SURFACED, KEEPING TENSION AMONG BOTH AMERICAN AND COLOMBIAN EMPLOYEES AT A PARTICULARLY HIGH LEVEL. RUMORS WITHIN BOGOTA OF PENDING ATTACKS AGAINST THE EMBASSY REACHED A PEAK IN MID-SEPTEMBER DURING WHICH TIME MANY CONTACTS

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7062

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 10 BOGOTA 10850

FOR A/ALS

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: ALOW
SUBJECT: DANGER PAY REPORT

EXPRESSED FEAR OF VISITING THE CHANCERY OUT OF CONCERN FOR THEIR PERSONAL SAFETY. SEVERAL VENDORS REFUSED TO SERVICE THE EMBASSY, AND ANNEX CONSTRUCTION SLOWED SUBSTANTIALLY DUE TO WORKERS' REFUSAL TO BE PRESENT ON THE CHANCERY COMPOUND DURING OTHER THAN NORMAL HOURS OF BUSINESS.

AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, MORE THAN 65 EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WERE DETONATED IN THE CITY OF BOGOTA DURING A FOUR-WEEK PERIOD FROM MID-SEPTEMBER TO MID-OCTOBER. ALTHOUGH THESE ATTACKS WERE RANDOM IN NATURE, MAINLY TARGETING COMMERCIAL AND BANKING ESTABLISHMENTS, THREE CAR BOMBS WERE DETONATED IN THE PROXIMITY OF SHOPPING AREAS. A FOURTH WAS DEACTIVATED IN THE GARAGE AREA OF A LARGE SHOPPING MALL, WHILE A FIFTH EXPLODED WITHIN THE BASEMENT OF A HOTEL UTILIZED BY TDY PERSONNEL, REQUIRING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXCEPTIONAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS BY OFFICIAL AMERICANS. SEVERAL ESTABLISHMENTS FREQUENTED BY EMBASSY EMPLOYEES WERE PLACED OFF LIMITS FOR A PERIOD OF 2-1/2 MONTHS AND EMBASSY RADIO NET SECURITY UPDATES BECAME COMMONPLACE
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DURING THE SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER TIME PERIOD. EMPLOYEES WERE URGED NOT TO VENTURE OUT OF THEIR HOMES AFTER 8 P.M. DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER TO PREVENT THEM FROM BEING AT THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.

IN ADDITION TO HEIGHTENED CONCERNS AS TO WHAT APPROACH THE COLOMBIAN CARTELS WOULD TAKE IN RESPONSE TO COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT DECREES AND U.S. AID TO ASSIST COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES IN THEIR WAR AGAINST THE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS, SEVERAL COLOMBIAN GUERRILLA ORGANIZATIONS ISSUED NUMEROUS DECLARATIONS DENOUNCING AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT AS OPEN MEDDLING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF COLOMBIA. IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE, THE ELN, EPL, AND FARC INSURGENT GROUPS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF COLOMBIA, CALLED FOR AN INCREASED STRUGGLE AND THE JOINING OF FORCES TO COUNTER "YANKEE INTERVENTION" AND TO "DEFEND SOVEREIGNTY, THE RIGHT TO LIVE, AND POLITICAL FREEDOM." ACCORDING TO THE GROUPS, THE \$65 MILLION U.S. ANTINARCOTICS AID PACKAGE WAS "CLEARLY

DIRECTED AGAINST THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT AND MASS SECTORS" OF COLOMBIAN SOCIETY. THE GUERRILLAS CONFIRMED THEIR THREATS WITH A LATE EVENING ROCKET ATTACK AGAINST THE CHANCERY BUILDING ON SEPTEMBER 17. FORTUNATELY, EAC ANTICIPATION OF SUCH AN EVENTUALITY AND THE INSTITUTION OF STREET CLOSURES FORCED THE TERRORISTS TO LAUNCH THE ROCKET FROM A DISTANCE OF 100 YARDS.

POST CONSIDERS THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE AND PROMINENT NEWS COVERAGE OF U.S. AID TO COLOMBIA IN SUPPORT OF COUNTERNARCOTICS EFFORTS AS A VERY SERIOUS SECURITY CONSIDERATION. IT PROMPTED CONFIDENTIAL

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A NUMBER OF ADDED MEASURES BY POST TO PROTECT PERMANENT AS WELL AS TDY PERSONNEL FROM ATTACK BY EITHER THE RIGHTIST OR LEFTIST ELEMENTS AND REMAINS A CONSTANT CONCERN. INSURGENT GROUPS AS WELL AS NARCOTRAFFICKERS MAY VIEW THE INCREASED U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE AS A LEGITIMATE TARGET, CONSIDERING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ROLE AS ADVISOR TO THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT. AS A RESULT, WHERE POSSIBLE, U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED QUARTERS ON BASE TO LOWER THEIR PROFILE AND REDUCE THEIR VULNERABILITY TO ATTACK. DEA TDYERS HAVE BEEN HOUSED WITHIN U.S. GOVERNMENT QUARTERS.

THE AMERICAN EMBASSY DEPENDS IN LARGE PART ON THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR OFFICIAL FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL; HOWEVER, THEIR CAPABILITIES AND RESOURCES ARE LIMITED. ALTHOUGH UNDER 24-HOUR UNIFORMED POLICE PROTECTION AND MILITARY PLAINCLOTHED COUNTERSURVEILLANCE, THE ELN WAS STILL CAPABLE OF LAUNCHING A SETBACK ROCKET ATTACK.

U.S. PERSONNEL AND ASSETS ARE AT RISK IN VIRTUALLY ALL AREAS OF COLOMBIA AS WAS EVIDENCED ON SEPTEMBER 23 IN THE CITY OF MONTERIA, CORDOBA DEPARTMENT IN THE NORTH. ALTHOUGH UNDER THE 24-HOUR PROTECTION OF COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE, SABOTEURS WERE ABLE TO ATTACK AN INM C-123 AIRCRAFT AS IT SAT AT THE AIRPORT AWAITING EMERGENCY REPAIRS. FORTUNATELY, NO INJURIES RESULTED AND ALL AMERICAN PERSONNEL HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE CITY IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH AN EVENTUALITY; HOWEVER, THE PLANE WAS CONSIDERED A TOTAL LOSS AS A RESULT OF AN ENSUING FIRE. WHETHER THIS WAS THE ACT

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7063

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 10 BOGOTA 10850

FOR A/ALS

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: ALLOW
SUBJECT: DANGER PAY REPORT

OF TRADITIONAL TERRORISM OR THE RECENT SURGE IN
NARCO-VIOLENCE HAS NOT BEEN CLEARLY ESTABLISHED. BUT
THE INCIDENT UNDERSCORED THE EVER-PRESENT DANGERS
WHICH CONFRONT OFFICIAL AMERICAN INTERESTS WITHIN
COLOMBIA ON A DAILY BASIS.

THREATS AGAINST OFFICIAL AMERICANS CONTINUED ON A
REGULAR BASIS BETWEEN JUNE AND DECEMBER AND RESULTED
IN NO FEWER THAN 20 MEETINGS OF THE EMERGENCY ACTION
COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED INTELLIGENCE
INFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENTS WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON
THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF EMPLOYEES. THESE RANGED
FROM RANDOM BOMBINGS IN COLOMBIA'S MAJOR CITIES TO
THREATS OF NARCO-TERRORIST ASSASSINATION TEAMS
TARGETING MISSION PERSONNEL. THE COMMITTEE PROPOSED
MEASURES TO COUNTER INSURGENT KIDNAPPING AND ATTACK
TECHNIQUES. REPORTING INDICATES THAT BOTH THE
NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS AND TRADITIONAL GUERRILLA GROUPS
CONTINUE TO ASSESS OFFICIAL FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL
FOR AREAS OF VULNERABILITY. IT IS BELIEVED THE
AGGRESSIVE, HIGH PROFILE SECURITY MEASURES EMPLOYED BY
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THE EMBASSY HAVE BEEN AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT AND HAVE DISCOURAGED TERRORIST STRIKES.

B. INSURRECTION, WAR, OR WARFARE CONDITIONS COLOMBIA HAS SUFFERED FROM SOCIAL UNREST AND EXTRAORDINARY VIOLENCE DURING MOST OF THE PAST 40 YEARS. COLOMBIA IS CURRENTLY BATTLING SEVERAL WELL-ORGANIZED, BRUTALLY VIOLENT ARMED GROUPS DEDICATED TO THE OVERTHROW OF THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH MOST WERE ORIGINALLY LEFTIST IN POLITICAL ORIENTATION, SEVERAL OF THESE GROUPS NOW APPEAR MORE INTERESTED IN BANDITRY THAN IDEOLOGY. THE GUERRILLAS USE TERRORISM, POLITICAL ASSASSINATION, KIDNAPPING, EXTORTION AND ROBBERY TO RAISE MONEY AND TO ACHIEVE CONTROL OF PORTIONS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE.

COLOMBIA IS ALSO THE HOME BASE OF ENORMOUSLY WEALTHY NARCOTICS MAFIAS. COLOMBIA'S NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS HEAD GIANT ILLICIT ENTERPRISES WHICH ACTIVELY ATTEMPT TO ALTER THE COLOMBIAN POLITICAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEM TO THEIR OWN ENDS. THE TRAFFICKERS HAVE ACHIEVED VIRTUAL IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION BY SUCH INTIMATORY TACTICS AS KIDNAPPING, THREATENING AND MURDERING JUDGES, OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND OPINION MAKERS. THEY HAVE ALSO GAINED CONTROL OF A NUMBER OF RIGHT-WING "SELF-DEFENSE" GROUPS, ORIGINALLY FORMED BY RURAL LANDOWNERS TO DEFEND AGAINST GUERRILLA ATTACKS. OUT OF A COMBINATION OF IDEOLOGICAL CONVICTION AND A DESIRE TO FURTHER TRAFFICKER INTERESTS, THESE GROUPS FREQUENTLY ASSASSINATE, TORTURE, AND MASSACRE PEOPLE BELIEVED TO HAVE LINKS WITH THE GUERRILLAS.

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE VARIOUS MAJOR TRAFFICKERS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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BETWEEN THE TRAFFICKERS AND THE GUERRILLA GROUPS, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS ITSELF INVOLVED IN THE ILLEGAL DRUG BUSINESS, ARE COMPLEX. MANY OF THE MAJOR NARCOTICS KINGPINS COOPERATE WITH EACH OTHER. NEVERTHELESS, A VIOLENT CONFLICT BETWEEN COLOMBIA'S TWO MAJOR DRUG CARTELS ADDED TO THE VIOLENCE WHICH HAS PLAGUED THE COUNTRY DURING 1989. IN CERTAIN AREAS SPECIFIC TRAFFICKERS AND GUERRILLA UNITS COOPERATE. IN OTHER AREAS, GUERRILLAS AND TRAFFICKERS COME INTO CONFLICT. TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEM OF TERRORISM, THE GOVERNMENT HAS RESORTED TO EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES, INCLUDING THE ENACTMENT OF STATE OF SIEGE DECREES AND THE LAUNCHING OF MILITARY AND POLICE ACTIONS AIMED AT REASSERTING ITS CONTROL. DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST,

PRESIDENT BARCO, FOLLOWING AN ESCALATION OF NARCO VIOLENCE AGAINST A NUMBER OF JUDGES, THE SLAYINGS OF THE MEDELLIN CHIEF OF POLICE, AND THE DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNOR OF ANTIOQUIA, CULMINATING IN THE ASSASSINATION OF THE LEADING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, LAUNCHED A MAJOR OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE TRAFFICKERS AND ISSUED STATE OF SIEGE DECREES PROVIDING FOR THE CONFISCATION OF THE PROPERTY OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND EXTRADITION OF FUGITIVE TRAFFICKERS.

DURING THE SUMMER OF 1989, THE MILITARY LAUNCHED A SUSTAINED SIX-MONTH CAMPAIGN AGAINST INSURGENT GROUPS, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON DESTABILIZING THE MOST ACTIVE OF THE GUERRILLA ORGANIZATIONS, THE ELN. ALTHOUGH THE OVERALL OPERATION WAS CONSIDERED A SUCCESS, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THE MILITARY ACCOMPLISHED THEIR MAIN OBJECTIVE, WHICH WAS TO WEAKEN

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7064

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 05 OF 10 BOGOTA 10850

FOR A/ALS

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: ALLOW
SUBJECT: DANGER PAY REPORT

THE ELN TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO

INTERFERE WITH THE 1990 NATIONAL ELECTIONS. THE MAIN REASON ATTRIBUTED TO THE LESSENER EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OPERATION WAS THE INABILITY OF THE MILITARY TO SIMULTANEOUSLY SUSTAIN OPERATIONS AGAINST BOTH NARCOTICS AND INSURGENT ELEMENTS. CERTAIN ELEMENTS WITHIN THE MILITARY ARE PESSIMISTIC IN THEIR PROJECTIONS, NOTING THAT THE ELN APPEARS TO BE REBOUNDED AND MAY INTENSIFY ATTACKS AGAINST MULTINATIONAL OIL COMPANIES AND CARRY OUT INCREASINGLY BOLD TAKEOVERS OF TOWNS AND ABDUCTIONS.

C. TERRORISM CONDITIONS

INSURGENT GROUPS SUCH AS THE FARC, EPL, ELN, AND M-19, AS WELL AS THE NARCO-TRAFFICKERS, ALL HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO CARRY OUT TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST U.S. PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES. EMBASSY INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERSURVEILLANCE EFFORTS INDICATE THAT THESE INSURGENT GROUPS ARE INTENT ON ASSESSING THE FEASIBILITY OF STAGING AN ATTACK AGAINST OFFICIAL U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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PERSONNEL AND INSTALLATIONS. THE U.S. INCURSION IN PANAMA BROUGHT A PLETHORA OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS FROM THE GUERRILLA GROUPS, DECLARING THEIR INTENT TO CONTINUE THE WAR AGAINST THE UNITED STATES "IMPERIALISTS" IN COLOMBIA. WHETHER OR NOT THE INSURGENT ELEMENTS ARE ACTING ALONE OR IN COLLUSION WITH THE NARCOS DOES NOT DIMINISH THE FACT NOTED BY CORROBORATED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS: AN INCREASE IN SURVEILLANCE OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL BY ELN, EPL, AND M-19, BOTH AT THE EMBASSY AND AT PRIVATE RESIDENCES.

IN THE LATTER PART OF 1989 AND CONTINUING IN EARLY JANUARY 1990, WE HAVE ALSO WITNESSED AN INCREASE IN THE SEIZURES OF EXPLOSIVES IN BOGOTA AND THROUGHOUT COLOMBIA. ALL OF THIS POINTS TO A CONCERTED EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE TERRORIST GROUPS TO PLAN AND EXECUTE MORE BRAZEN ASSAULTS. WHEN SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE ELN WERE CAPTURED IN BUCARAMANGA ON DECEMBER 27, THEY WERE FOUND TO BE TRANSPORTING 50 KILOS OF DYNAMITE AND HAD A LIST OF TARGETS THAT INCLUDED PROMINENT COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS AND BUSINESS LEADERS. ON DECEMBER 28 IN BOGOTA, A CACHE OF 2,500 KILOS OF DYNAMITE (GELIGNITE) WAS DISCOVERED THREE BLOCKS AWAY FROM THE EMBASSY, ALONG WITH DETONATORS PURCHASED IN THE UNITED STATES. THESE AND OTHER EXAMPLES DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY OF THESE VARIED GROUPS TO TRANSPORT LARGE AMOUNTS OF EXPLOSIVES INTO THE CENTERS OF LARGE CITIES AND TO POTENTIALLY INFLICT EXTENSIVE DAMAGE.

DURING THE LAST WEEKS OF 1989, INTELLIGENCE REPORTING

REVEALED PLOTS TO BOMB MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, MANY OF WHICH ARE LOCATED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF EMBASSY RESIDENCES. ADDITIONALLY, HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE TARGETED COMPANIES SHARE APARTMENT BUILDINGS WITH EMBASSY EMPLOYEES, WHICH IS UNAVOIDABLE. GIVEN THE THREATS AND THE PROXIMITY OF EMBASSY RESIDENCES, IT IS FEARED THAT THE INSURGENT AND NARCO GROUPS COULD EASILY MISTAKE U.S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL FOR MULTINATIONAL EMPLOYEES. AMERICANS, THEREFORE, COULD EASILY BECOME "TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY." ADDITIONALLY, U.S. PERSONNEL ARE PRONE TO BE AT THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME. A RECENT EXAMPLE IS THE JANUARY 6 CAR BOMBING OF A COLOMBIAN OFFICIAL'S BUSINESS IN A RESIDENTIAL SECTION OF NORTHERN BOGOTA. THE BOMBING FOLLOWED BY THREE WEEKS THE KIDNAPPING OF THE OFFICIAL'S SON WHO IS BEING HELD FOR RANSOM. A HALF DOZEN EMBASSY RESIDENCES WERE DAMAGED BY THE BLAST; WERE IT NOT FOR THE PRESENCE OF PROTECTIVE FILM ON A NUMBER OF APARTMENT WINDOWS, SOME EMBASSY EMPLOYEES WOULD HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY INJURED.

OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO U.S. PERSONNEL IS THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE VARIOUS GUERRILLA GROUPS APPEAR TO BE MOVING. SOME EPL AND ELN GROUPS APPEAR TO HAVE REVERTED COMPLETELY TO BANDITRY AND RANDOM VIOLENCE, WITHOUT ANY PRETENSION OF AN IDEOLOGICAL MOTIVE FOR THEIR ACTIONS. THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT, CARLOS LEMOS SIMMONDS, ON JANUARY 4 VOICED CONCERN THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ELN HAVE STEADILY DEGENERATED INTO SHEER ATROCITY. LEMOS SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO THE RECENT BURNING OF A BUS FULL OF PASSENGERS IN CALI. GIVEN THE RECENT TRACK RECORD OF THESE GROUPS AND THEIR DECLARED INTENTION TO FIGHT THE U.S. IN COLOMBIA, THE EMBASSY FEELS THAT THE GUERRILLAS MAY BE WILLING TO ATTACK U.S. PERSONNEL OUTSIDE THE EMBASSY

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INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 OPR-01 ARA-01 AMAD-01 PER-01 /005 W
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R 111141Z JUL 90
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 10 BOGOTA 10850

FOR A/ALS

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: ALLOW
SUBJECT: DANGER PAY REPORT

WITHOUT REGARD TO PUBLIC OPINION OR GOC REACTIONS
SHOULD THEY DECIDE THAT THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGES
OUTWEIGH THE POLITICAL COSTS.

THE THREAT TO U.S. PERSONNEL, BOTH OFFICIAL AND
PRIVATE, MAY TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORSE. IN
PARTICULAR, THE RECENT WAVE OF KIDNAPPINGS OF
PROMINENT AND/OR WEALTHY COLOMBIANS HAS RAISED
CONCERNS THAT U.S. PERSONNEL MAY BE TARGETED. THERE
IS NO EVIDENCE AT PRESENT TO INDICATE THAT USG
PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY TARGETED, BUT THIS
COULD EASILY CHANGE. WHILE SOME KIDNAPPINGS, LIKE
THAT OF COLOMBIAN PRESIDENCY SECGEN GERMAN MONTOYA'S
SON AND RELATIVES OF PRESIDENT BARCO ARE SEEN AS
ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE THE GOC'S ANTINARCOTICS EFFORTS,
OTHERS MAY SIMPLY BE A MEANS FOR NARCOTERRORISTS AND
SUBVERSIVES TO RAISE CASH THROUGH RANSOM PAYMENTS.
WHATEVER THE MOTIVATION, OUR WORRY IS THE KIDNAPPING
ACTIVITY MAY EXTEND TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND THEIR
DEPENDENTS. POST'S EFFORTS TO PROTECT EMPLOYEES
THROUGH INCREASED SECURITY COVERAGE AND SECURITY
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BRIEFINGS HAS ADDED TO AN ALREADY HIGH STRESS LEVEL
WITHIN THE EMBASSY COMMUNITY.

D. HOST GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE PROTECTION

THE HOST GOVERNMENT IS VERY COOPERATIVE IN PROVIDING
PROTECTIVE FORCES DURING TIMES OF HIGH THREAT, BUT

THIS ASSISTANCE IS OFTEN SHORT LIVED AND NARROWLY FOCUSED. A PREVAILING TENDENCY IN THE GOC OFFICES IS TO DIRECT FULL ATTENTION AND RESOURCES TO THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM AT HAND WITHOUT AN ANALYSIS OF THE OVERALL ONGOING THREAT. WHILE THE NUMBER OF BOMBINGS AND ASSASSINATIONS HAVE DWINDLED IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS, STATISTICS AND EVENTS IN THAT PERIOD OF TIME (THE CAR BOMBING OF THE DAS IN EARLY DECEMBER AND THE JANUARY 6 CAR BOMB AT A MAJOR POLITICAL FIGURE'S BUSINESS) INDICATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CURTAIL OR PREVENT RANDOM ATTACKS. THIS IS DUE IN LARGE PART TO MANPOWER SHORTAGES, LACK OF TRAINING, AND A SHORTAGE OF GENUINE EXPERTISE IN MATTERS OF TERRORISM. REPORTS FROM THROUGHOUT COLOMBIA DEMONSTRATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT FORCES LACK THE MOBILIZATION, CAPABILITY, EQUIPMENT, AND TRAINED MANPOWER TO REPEL THE ATTACKS AGAINST GOVERNMENT PATROL UNITS. FROM A PROTECTIVE INTELLIGENCE POINT OF VIEW, IT IS OFTEN HARD TO DISCERN OR OBTAIN POST-BLAST INFORMATION ABOUT A BOMBING BECAUSE THE COLOMBIANS DO NOT EFFECTIVELY SECURE A BOMB SITE. THE JANUARY 6 BOMBING IN NORTHERN BOGOTA IS A GOOD EXAMPLE. NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO TIE-OFF THE BOMB SITE AND SECURE IT FOR EXAMINATION. PEDESTRIANS WERE FREE TO WALK RIGHT UP TO THE BOMBED BUILDING, TOUCHING POTENTIAL EVIDENCE OR SPECIMENS. THE MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN

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APPEARED TO BE THE REMOVAL OF DEBRIS. THIS SCENE HAS BEEN TYPICAL AT OTHER BOMBING INCIDENTS, THUS PREVENTING EFFECTIVE ANALYSIS OF CRIME SCENES.

ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PROTECT OUR FACILITIES IN A TIMELY MANNER AS WE EXPERIENCE PROTEST MARCHES, VIP VISITS, AND SPECIAL FUNCTIONS. RESPONSES TO OUR SECURITY NEEDS BY COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN BASED UPON OFFICIAL WRITTEN REQUESTS, IN ADDITION TO OCCASIONS WHEN THE AUTHORITIES CONSIDER THAT THE SITUATION WARRANTS INCREASED SECURITY SUPPORT WITHOUT A FORMAL REQUEST FROM THE EMBASSY. HOWEVER, SECURITY FORCES HAVE TO CONFRONT AN ONGOING BATTLE WITH STREET CRIME, INTERCITY TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, AND DAILY NARCO-TRAFFICKER VIOLENCE. IN RECENT WEEKS, THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL FORCES HAVE BEEN CAUGHT SHORT IN TERMS OF MANPOWER DUE TO THE INCREASED PROTECTION AFFORDED COLOMBIAN JUDGES, POLITICIANS, AND BUSINESS LEADERS.

SHORTLY BEFORE AND DURING THE CARTAGENA SUMMIT, THE ELN GUERRILLA GROUP KIDNAPPED AT LEAST THREE UNITED STATES CITIZENS WHO HAD BEEN LIVING AND WORKING IN COLOMBIA. THE VICTIMS WERE RELATIVELY "SOFT TARGETS"

IN THAT THEY HAD LIVED IN COLOMBIA (MEDELLIN AND CALI) FOR A NUMBER YEARS AND HAD DEVELOPED A CASUAL APPROACH TO THEIR PERSONAL SECURITY. ALL THREE WERE ABDUCTED AT OR NEAR THEIR RESIDENCES. NONE OF THEM WERE HARMED AND ALL THREE WERE RELEASED. THE KIDNAPPINGS SINGLED THE BEGINNING OF AN ELN CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNITED STATES INTERESTS AND PERSONNEL.

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7066

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 07 OF 10 BOGOTA 10850

FOR A/ALS

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: ALLOW
SUBJECT: DANGER PAY REPORT

THE END OF FEBRUARY SAW THE ELN OPENLY STATE THAT IT WAS ACTIVELY TARGETING THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA AND OTHER OFFICIAL U.S. PERSONNEL. THESE PUBLIC THREATS ALSO MENTIONED THAT ALL U.S. MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS AND PERSONNEL WERE CONSIDERED FAIR GAME IN THE ELN'S FIGHT AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. LETTERS FROM THE ELN WERE SENT TO THE EMBASSY AND THE U.S. MILGROUP IN BOGOTA; THE "HIT LIST" WAS PUBLISHED IN THE BOGOTA NEWSPAPERS.

THE THREAT FROM THE ELN IS TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY THE

EMBASSY COMMUNITY. SPECIAL BRIEFINGS WERE PROVIDED TO DEPENDENTS AND SPOUSES, EMPHASIZING THE BASICS OF PERSONAL SECURITY. COUNTERSURVEILLANCE EFFORTS WERE INCREASED TO THWART ANY ATTEMPTS TO TARGET THE COM AND DCM'S MOTORCADES. COLOMBIAN EMPLOYEES AT THE EMBASSY WERE ALSO GIVEN SPECIAL BRIEFINGS CONCERNING THEIR VULNERABILITIES AND PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE.

FROM THE END OF FEBRUARY THROUGH MARCH, POST ALSO WITNESSED AN INCREASE IN THE TRANSPORTING OF
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EXPLOSIVES IN BOGOTA INTENDED FOR CAR BOMBS; AN INCREASE IN CAR BOMBS DETECTED AND DEFUSED; AND A RISE IN THE NUMBER OF COLOMBIAN MAYORS BEING THREATENED OR KIDNAPPED. MEDELLIN, IN PARTICULAR, HAS WITNESSED A SERIES OF ASSASSINATIONS OF POLICEMEN. WHILE THESE KILLINGS HAVE NOT YET SPREAD TO BOGOTA, THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN CAR AND TRUCK BOMB ACTIVITY. AT THIS TIME, THE BOMBS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DIVIDED AGAINST GOC AUTHORITIES, POLITICIANS, AND THOSE INVOLVED IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE NARCOS. WHAT IS MOST DISTURBING ABOUT THESE CAR BOMBS IS THE SIZE OF THE EXPLOSIVE CHARGES. THE BOMBING OF THE DAS HEADQUARTERS ON DECEMBER 6, 1989, CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO THE BUILDING. ONE DISCOVERED CAR BOMB CONTAINED OVER 600 KILOS OF DYNAMITE; THE DAS BOMBING WAS ESTIMATED AT 200 KILOS.

THE ASSASSINATION OF THE UNION PATRIOTICA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE BERNARDO OSSA JARAMILLO IN MARCH BY THE MEDELLIN CARTEL SEEMED TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE NARCOS' LATEST TERROR CAMPAIGN. THE CONJUNCTION OF NARCO ACTIVITY WITH OPEN THREATS BY THE ELN HAVE RAISED THE LEVEL OF TENSION IN BOGOTA AND THROUGHOUT COLOMBIA. WITH THE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS APPROACHING ON MAY 27, THE CURRENT CYCLE OF BOMBINGS, THREATS, AND ASSASSINATIONS WILL MOST LIKELY ESCALATE. THE IMMEDIATE DANGER TO U.S. PERSONNEL IN THIS ENVIRONMENT IS UNPREDICTABLE AND PERHAPS UNAVOIDABLE IN SOME INSTANCES. WHILE KIDNAPPING ATTEMPTS AND THE TARGETING OF MOTORCADES CAN BE NEUTRALIZED WITH PROACTIVE MEASURES, BEING IN THE VICINITY OF A CAR BOMB IS MORE DIFFICULT TO DEFEND AGAINST.
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E. TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

LAST SEPTEMBER, THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR COLOMBIA WAS UPGRADED TO A TRAVEL "WARNING." THE TRAVEL WARNING IS STILL IN EFFECT. AMERICAN NATIONALS ARE ADVISED NOT TO TRAVEL TO COLOMBIA UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. IN THE POST'S TRAVEL ADVISORY OF MAY 10, 1989, THE STATE DEPARTMENT COMMENTED THAT THE "COLOMBIA TRAVEL ADVISORY WAS BY FAR THE DEPARTMENT'S LONGEST" AND NOTED THAT THERE WERE MORE LOCATIONS IDENTIFIED IN COLOMBIA AS "DANGEROUS FOR U.S. CITIZEN TRAVEL" THAN IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. COLOMBIA STILL HOLDS THIS DUBIOUS DISTINCTION.

THE AREAS OF COLOMBIA THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CAN VISIT REMAIN RESTRICTED, AND ALL IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL REQUESTS MUST BE CLEARED BY THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE. TRAVEL TO MEDELLIN HAS BEEN SEVERELY RESTRICTED FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS AND APPROVED OFFICIAL VISITS ARE A RARE EXCEPTION TO THE GENERAL BAN ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO THIS AREA. OFFICIAL OR PERSONAL TRAVEL BY MISSION MEMBERS TO THE NORTH COAST MUST HAVE THE CONCURRENCE OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER IN BARRANQUILLA, IN ADDITION TO THAT OF THE RSO. THIS AREA IS A MAJOR NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTION CENTER AND SITE OF MAJOR GUERRILLA ACTIVITY. IN AREAS SUCH AS THESE, ALL AMERICANS ARE CONSIDERED AT RISK AND FACE KIDNAPPING OR ASSASSINATION. RESTRICTIONS TO TRAVEL ARE IN PLACE FOR ALL OR PART OF 28 OF COLOMBIA'S 32 DEPARTMENTS. AREAS OF PARTICULAR DANGER AT THIS WRITING INCLUDE THE DEPARTMENTS OF AMAZONAS,

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7067

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 08 OF 10 BOGOTA 10850

FOR A/ALS

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: ALOW
SUBJECT: DANGER PAY REPORT

ANTIOQUIA, ARAUCA, CAQUETA, CASANARE, GUANIA, GUAJIRA, GUAVIARE, PUTUMAYO, VAUPES, VICHADA, AND SANTANDER. THE AREA OF NORTHERN SANTANDER NEAR BUCARAMANGA HAS SEEN A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN THE PAST MONTH. PLANNED AND APPROVED VISITS TO SPECIFIC LOCALITIES ARE FREQUENTLY CANCELED DUE TO QUICKLY CHANGING SECURITY CONDITIONS. NIGHTTIME TRAVEL OUTSIDE MAJOR CITY LIMITS IS PROHIBITED, AND TRAVEL ACROSS COUNTRY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED. THE FORCED STOPPING AND ROBBING OF BOTH BUSES AND PASSENGER VEHICLES IS COMMONPLACE THROUGHOUT COLOMBIA.

IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR APPROVAL OF ALL TRAVEL OF U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OUTSIDE OF BOGOTA, AND OFFICIAL OR PERSONAL TRIPS INTO CERTAIN SECTIONS OF METROPOLITAN BOGOTA, ALL HOME-TO-OFFICE TRIPS ARE MADE ONLY IN ARMORED VEHICLES WITH ACCOMPANYING BODYGUARDS. CERTAIN PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENTS WERE PUT "OFF LIMITS" TO U.S. PERSONNEL AS THESE PLACES WERE KNOWN TO BE AMERICAN GATHERING

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SPOTS. PERIODS OF HEIGHTENED TENSION, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE PAST FEW MONTHS, HAVE SEEN FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR-ORDERED "LOCK DOWNS" OR THE LIMITING OF ACTIVITIES TO DAYLIGHT HOURS.

F. PRESENCE OF DEPENDENTS

IN SEPTEMBER 1989, ALL POST DEPENDENTS WERE EVACUATED TO THE UNITED STATES. THE EVACUATION WAS PROMPTED BY INDICATIONS THAT THE NARCOS WERE PLANNING AN ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST THE GOC AND THE U.S. EMBASSY FOLLOWING THE GOC'S OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE MEDELLIN CARTEL UPON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CARLOS GALAN IN AUGUST. ADULT DEPENDENTS WERE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO POST SHORTLY AFTER THANKSGIVING.

ONLY ADULT DEPENDENTS ARE PERMITTED TO ACCOMPANY THE U.S EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED TO COLOMBIA. APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF OF THE DEPENDENTS ARE WORKING AT THE EMBASSY. DEPENDENTS ARE KEPT INFORMED OF SECURITY CONDITIONS THROUGH STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, BULLETINS IN THE POST NEWSLETTER, AND PERIODIC SECURITY AWARENESS BRIEFINGS BY THE RSO, THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION, AND THE AMBASSADOR. TEMPORARY RETURN OF MINOR DEPENDENTS FOR MAJOR HOLIDAY PERIODS IS ASSESSED BY THE EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE AND, WITH AMBASSADORIAL APPROVAL, THE DEPARTMENT IS ASKED TO ALLOW TEMPORARY VISITS. EAC RECOMMENDATION FOR THE TEMPORARY RETURN OF DEPENDENTS IS BASED UPON A CURRENT THREAT ANALYSIS AND IS CONTINUALLY MONITORED DURING THE COURSE OF THE VISITING PERIOD.

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GIVEN THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH POST VIEWS THE THREAT TO AMERICAN EMBASSY EMPLOYEES, A NUMBER OF PRECAUTIONS ARE TAKEN TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR EACH MINOR DEPENDENT DURING HIS/HER VISIT. PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST DEPENDENT, ALL SPONSORS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND AN RSO BRIEFING ON DEPENDENT-SPECIFIC SECURITY PROBLEMS. SPONSORS ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING THE RSO WITH A COMPLETE ITINERARY FOR EACH CHILD AS WELL AS A SAFEHAVEN ADDRESS AND CONTACT WITHIN THE UNITED STATES IN THE EVENT AN EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF DEPENDENTS BECOMES NECESSARY. AS WITH ALL OFFICIAL AMERICANS, DEPENDENTS UTILIZE EMBASSY ARMORED VEHICLES, WITH PROTECTIVE SECURITY ESCORT, TO AND FROM THE BOGOTA AIRPORT. ALSO, FAMILY OR MISSION-SPONSORED SOCIAL EVENTS ARE COORDINATED THROUGH THE RSO TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SECURITY IS PROVIDED AND TO PRECLUDE THE SETTING OF PATTERNS. TRAVEL BY DEPENDENTS, INCLUDING DAY TRIPS OUTSIDE BOGOTA, MUST BE CLEARED IN ADVANCE BY THE SECURITY OFFICE. EMBASSY SECURITY POLICIES REGARDING DEPENDENT VISITS ARE SET FORTH IN A FORMAL CONTRACT WHICH MUST BE READ AND SIGNED BY BOTH SPONSOR AND DEPENDENT. FAILURE OF EITHER PARTY TO ABIDE BY POST GUIDELINES MAY RESULT IN A RECOMMENDATION BY A SECURITY COMMITTEE THAT THE AMBASSADOR ADOPT ANY OF SEVERAL COURSES OF ACTION, INCLUDING THE REMOVAL OF THE DEPENDENT FROM POST AND DENIAL OF FUTURE VISITS.

G. PRESENCE OF EMPLOYEES

VISITS TO COLOMBIA BY U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, WHETHER ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS OR PERSONAL TRAVEL, ARE

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7068

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 09 OF 10 BOGOTA 10850

FOR A/ALS

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: ALLOW
SUBJECT: DANGER PAY REPORT

CLOSELY SCRUTINIZED. PRIOR CLEARANCE BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION, BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECURITY OFFICE, IS REQUIRED WITHOUT EXCEPTION FOR ALL SUCH TRAVEL. DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS, WHEN THE THREAT LEVEL IN COLOMBIA WAS CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY HIGH, VISITS WERE LIMITED TO THOSE DEEMED NECESSARY. AS A RESULT POST SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED THE NUMBER OF COUNTRY CLEARANCES. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE HAS BEEN AN INFLUX OF AMERICAN MILITARY SUPPORT PERSONNEL AS PART OF THE \$65 MILLION ANTINARCOTICS AID PACKAGE TO THE GOC. THE SECURITY PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE LARGE PRESENCE OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL HAS BEEN ADDRESSED, IN PART, BY THE DESIGNATION OF ONE ARSO AS A LIAISON BETWEEN THE SECURITY OFFICE AND THE U.S. MILITARY GROUP.

H. OTHER FACTORS/COMMENTS

1. BOTH THE U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION AND THE NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE UNIT IN COLOMBIA CONTINUE TO INCREASE THEIR OPERATIONAL EMPHASIS ON ORGANIZED

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NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IN COLOMBIA. THESE ACTIONS, ALONG WITH THE KILLING OF CARLOS C. RODRIGUEZ GACHA OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL, HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL IN TERMS OF BOTH THE LOSS OF CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES AND THE IMPAIRMENT OF THE CARTEL'S CASH FLOW. BECAUSE OF THEIR CONTINUED HIGH PROFILE VISIBILITY, DEA AND NAU PERSONNEL CONTINUE TO BE POSSIBLE TARGETS OF REPRISAL.

2. THE INFLUX OF U.S. AID, BOTH IN DOLLARS AND IN MILITARY HARDWARE, HAS BEEN A NEEDED BOOST TO THE COLOMBIANS IN THEIR WAR AGAINST THE NARCOS AND THE GUERRILLAS. ON THE DOWN SIDE, THIS RAPID BUILDUP IN MILITARY AID IS BEING VIEWED BY THE VARIOUS INSURGENT GROUPS AS A BACKDOOR MEANS OF BOLSTERING THE WAR AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS, UNDER THE GUISE OF FIGHTING THE DRUG WAR. MOREOVER, THE GUERRILLAS FEEL THAT ONCE THE DRUG WAR FERVOR DIES DOWN, ALL OF THE U.S. HELICOPTERS, WEAPONS, SUPPLIES, AND TRAINING WILL BE TURNED AGAINST THE M-19, FARC, ELN, AND EPL. IN THE SHORT TERM, THIS MEANS THE INSURGENTS SEE THE U.S. AS IN INCREASING THREAT. IN THE LONG TERM, IT COULD MEAN AN INCREASE IN GUERRILLA ACTIVITY TO PREVENT THE GOC FROM EFFECTIVELY USING THE INFUSION OF MILITARY HARDWARE AGAINST THEM.

3. THIS SPRING THE COLOMBIANS WILL HOLD THEIR MAYORAL AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE RECENT INCREASE IN GUERRILLA ACTIVITY AGAINST COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS AND MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES WILL CONTINUE OR MOST PROBABLY WILL INCREASE. EVEN THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOME RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN THE M-19 AND THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT, INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE OTHER INSURGENTS WILL NOT FOLLOW SUIT AND WILL PRESS

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THEIR CAUSES ALL THE MORE AS THE ELECTIONS APPROACH. IN TERMS OF U.S. PERSONNEL, ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, BY NARCOS OR INSURGENTS, WILL REQUIRE A HEIGHTENED STATE OF SECURITY AWARENESS BY THE U.S. COMMUNITY TO AVOID BEING PLACED IN HARM'S WAY.

4. THE ONE ACTIVITY THAT WILL MOST LIKELY RAISE THE THREAT LEVEL AGAINST AMERICAN PERSONNEL IS THE CONTINUING EXTRADITION OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS TO THE UNITED STATES. THE CARTEL IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE RETALIATORY ACTIONS IN SOME FORM AGAINST COLOMBIAN

OFFICIALS AND POTENTIALLY AMERICAN INTERESTS. THOSE FORMERLY ON THE LARGESSE OF THE CARTEL SEEKING OTHER AVENUES TO RAISE FUNDS, ESPECIALLY KIDNAPPING, WHICH MAY WELL BE DIRECTED AT OFFICIAL AMERICANS AT A FUTURE DATE.

5. SINCE JANUARY 1990, THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN COLOMBIA HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY. WHILE ACTING IN SUPPORT ROLES TO THE COLOMBIANS, THE U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE HIGHLY VISIBLE, HIGH-PROFILE TARGETS FOR THE NARCOS AND GUERRILLAS ALIKE. THE CONSTANT ROTATION OF MILGRP PERSONNEL MEANS THAT POST HAS THE ADDED RESPONSIBILITY OF ENSURING THE SECURITY OF YOUNG, HIGH-PROFILE TDYERS WHO ARE LIVING IN HOTELS THROUGHOUT BOGOTA.

COLOMBIA CONTINUES IN A STATE OF CONSTANT TURMOIL AND VIOLENCE. SOME FEAR THAT THE NATION IS TOTTERING ON THE EDGE OF A NEW PERIOD OF VIOLENCE SOMEWHAT LIKE THE ONE THAT RIPPED THE COUNTRY APART NEARLY FORTY YEARS AGO. ON ONE HAND, THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUES

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7069

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FOR A/ALS

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: ALOW

SUBJECT: DANGER PAY REPORT

ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS WHILE THE MILITARY PURSUES THE GUERRILLAS. IN THIS SETTING, THE WARLIKE CONDITIONS THAT HAVE ARISEN OVER THE PAST THREE TO FOUR MONTHS WILL CONTINUE. ONE KEY ASPECT IS THAT FOR THE COLOMBIANS TO CONTINUE THEIR TWO-FRONT WAR, A STEADY INFUSION OF U.S. AID IS MANDATORY. THE U.S., THEREFORE, IS IDENTIFIED BY THE NARCOS AND THE SUBVERSIVES AS AN ADVERSARY. THIS HAS PROMPTED THE FORMATION OF MANY FLUID ALLIANCES BETWEEN THE GUERRILLAS AND NARCOS. THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS IDENTIFIED AS A LEGITIMATE TARGET. IT COULD RESULT IN VIOLENCE AGAINST EMBASSY PERSONNEL, PROPERTY, AND OTHER U.S. INTERESTS IN COLOMBIA.
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