

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01697 01 OF 05 022321Z
ACTION SCT-03

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-05 SS-00 EB-00 NSCE-00
ARA-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 SSO-00 L-03 CTME-00 NRCE-00
TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01 FAAE-00 CCO-00 INM-08 INRE-00
CA-02 CG-00 ACDA-13 A-00 USSS-00 USIE-00 JUSE-00
FBIE-00 DOEE-00 M-01 DS-01 IMMC-01 OIS-01 P-02
/051 W

O 022324Z FEB 90

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2531

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

DEA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IM/IPS/CR/IR

() RELEASE

() DECLASSIFY

() EXCISE

() DECLASSIFY

() DENY

IN PART

EO Citations

1503242

FOIA Exemptions

PA Exemptions

TS authority to

() CLASSIFY as () S or () C Sec.

() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C

SECTION 01 OF 05 BOGOTA 01697

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PTER, PINS, MOPS, SNAR, PHUM, EPET, PGOV, CO

SUBJECT: INDEX OF MAJOR VIOLENCE FOR JANUARY 1990 (90-2)

REF: BOGOTA 81

1.

2. SUMMARY: GUERRILLA VIOLENCE INCREASED THIS
REPORTING PERIOD WITH SUBVERSIVES ENGAGED IN A STILL
INCIPIENT CAMPAIGN TO SABOTAGE THE 1990 ELECTIONS AND TO

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 01697 01 OF 05 022321Z

RETAKE PART OF THE MIDDLE MAGDALENA REGION. THE ELN
RENEWED FREQUENT ATTACKS ON THE OIL PIPELINE, CAUSING
HEAVY DAMAGES. THE MILITARY SCORED WITH TWO MAJOR
OFFENSIVES AGAINST THE ELN AND FARC IN THE MIDDLE
MAGDALENA AND IN THE EASTERN PLAINS, IN RESPONSE TO
GUERRILLA VIOLENCE IN THOSE REGIONS. THE ARMY PLANS TO
MAINTAIN OPERATIONS AGAINST BOTH THE NARCOS AND THE
GUERRILLAS, WHILE PROVIDING SECURITY FOR THE ELECTIONS.

3. THE SECURITY FORCES FACED A 300 PERCENT INCREASE IN
KIDNAPPINGS IN JANUARY AFTER NARCO GANGS JOINED
GUERRILLAS AND COMMON CRIMINALS IN THIS ACTIVITY,
PROMPTING THE GOC TO CREATE ANTI-KIDNAP GROUPS. LATE IN

THE REPORTING PERIOD, HOWEVER, THE TOP NARCOS RELEASED HOSTAGES AND CEASED ANTI-GOC ACTIVITIES IN A BID TO PLACATE AUTHORITIES. MORE NARCOS FOUND MURDERED IN BOGOTA SUGGESTED TO AUTHORITIES THE CONTINUATION OF A SCORE-SETTLING CAMPAIGN. END SUMMARY.

I. GUERRILLA-RELATED ACTIVITY

4. THE MILITARY RESPONDED EFFECTIVELY IN KEY AREAS TO HEIGHTENED GUERRILLA ACTIVITY THIS REPORTING PERIOD. SUBVERSIVE ACTIONS CONFIRMED EARLIER INDICATIONS OF A NEW, WIDE-RANGING CAMPAIGN BY GUERRILLAS TO SABOTAGE THE ELECTIONS AND THE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE, AND, IN THE CASE OF THE FARC, TO RETAKE PART OF THE MIDDLE MAGDALENA REGION. IN LATE JANUARY, THE COMMANDER OF THE COLOMBIAN ARMY, GENERAL JESUS ARMANDO ARIAS CABRALES, TOLD THE DCM THAT THIS ELECTION YEAR THE ARMY WOULD BE CAPABLE OF SIMULTANEOUSLY MAINTAINING OPERATIONS AGAINST THE NARCOS AND THE GUERRILLAS, WHILE PROVIDING SECURITY FOR THE ELECTIONS. (SEE BOGOTA 976). ARIAS SAID THAT THE ELN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 01697 01 OF 05 022321Z

FOCUS WAS ON INTIMIDATING VOTERS TO BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS ENTIRELY, WHILE THE FARC AND THE EPL WERE ATTEMPTING TO PRESSURE VOTERS TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATES SUPPORTED BY THOSE GROUPS.

ARMY HITS FARC AND ELN IN MIDDLE MAGDALENA AND IN META

5. ARMY TROOPS BEGAN A MAJOR OFFENSIVE AGAINST FARC AND ELN UNITS IN THE MIDDLE MAGDALENA ON JANUARY 6, AN OPERATION THAT CULMINATED IN WHAT ARMY SOURCES DESCRIBED AS THE "MOST ENERGETIC MILITARY OFFENSIVE EVER UNLEASHED AGAINST FARC OUTPOSTS IN THE MAGDALENA." THE ATTACK BEGAN AFTER THE FIFTH BRIGADE DETECTED THE PRESENCE OF 200 GUERRILLAS OF THE FARC'S 24TH FRONT AND THE ELN'S "DOMINGO LAIN" COMMANDO IN THAT AREA. THE MOST INTENSE FIGHTING OCCURRED IN A WIDE JUNGLE AREA BETWEEN SAN PABLO (SOUTH OF BOLIVAR DEPARTMENT) AND YONDO (ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT, ON THE BORDER WITH SANTANDER). IN YONDO THE FARC GUERRILLAS PUT UP A STIFF RESISTANCE. THE OPERATION LASTED UNTIL JANUARY 12 AND INVOLVED FIVE BATTALIONS (SOME 1,500 SOLDIERS). THE MILITARY, SUPPORTED BY ARMED HELICOPTERS, SUCCEEDED IN DISLODGING THE FARC'S 24TH FRONT FROM THE SAN PABLO-YONDO AREA. AUTHORITIES SEIZED SEVERAL FARC ELN ENCAMPMENTS, INCLUDING A LARGE FARC TRAINING SCHOOL, A HEALTH CENTER AND A COOPERATIVE. OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE REPORTED THAT FIVE MILITARY AND AT LEAST THIRTY GUERRILLAS WERE KILLED. IN THE MIDST OF THIS FIERCE BATTLE THE FARC LEADERSHIP STRUCK AN INVOLUNTARILY IRONIC NOTE: IT CALLED FOR A NATIONAL PLEBISCITE ON THE CONVOCAION OF A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS COLOMBIA'S CURRENT PROBLEMS (SEE BOGOTA 523).

UNCLASSIFIED

6. GENERAL ARIAS TOLD POLOFF THAT THE HEAVY
CONCENTRATION OF FARC FORCES IN THE MAGDALENA MEDIO IS



UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 . . . BOGOTA 01697 01 OF 05 022321Z . . .

UNCLASSIFIED



NNNN


PAGE 01 . . . BOGOTA 01697 02 OF 05 022322Z . . .

ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-05	SS-00	EB-00	NSCE-00
	ARA-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00	L-03	CTME-00	NRCE-00
	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	CCO-00	INM-08	INRE-00
	CA-02	CG-00	ACDA-13	A-00	USSS-00	USIE-00	JUSE-00
	FBIE-00	DOEE-00	M-01	DS-01	IMMC-01	OIS-01	P-02
	/051 W						

-----152456 022343Z /60

O 022324Z FEB 90
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2532
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM PRIORITY
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DEA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 05 BOGOTA 01697

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PINS, MOPS, SNAR, PHUM, EPET, PGOV, CO
SUBJECT: INDEX OF MAJOR VIOLENCE FOR JANUARY 1990 (90-2)

ATTRIBUTABLE TO FARC EFFORTS TO RETAKE PARTS OF THAT
REGION, FROM WHICH IT WAS DRIVEN OUT IN 1982-84 BY SELF
DEFENSE/VIGILANTE GROUPS. LENDING CREDENCE TO THIS
INTERPRETATION IS THE FACT THAT THE FARC UNITS FOUGHT
DOGGEDLY TO AVOID GIVING GROUND DURING THE SIX-DAY
ENCOUNTER. ARIAS CLAIMED THAT THE FARC'S EFFORT TO
REGAIN THE MAGDALENA MEDIO HAD BEEN STIMULATED BY CUT

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 01697 02 OF 05 022322Z

OFF OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT BY NARCO KINGPIN RODRIGUEZ
GACHA'S ORGANIZATION, NOW IN DISARRAY, TO SEVERAL
VIGILANTE GROUPS IN THE AREA. THE MILITARY CLAIMS THAT
ITS CAMPAIGN HAS FRUSTRATED FARC PLANS TO RETAKE THE
MAGDALENA. WE BELIEVE THAT THE SUBVERSIVES WILL TRY
AGAIN, GIVEN THE FARC'S OBVIOUS DESIRE TO RETAKE THAT
STRATEGICALLY LOCATED REGION, A COMMITMENT UNDERSCORED
BY RECENT CLASHES BETWEEN FARC UNITS AND VIGILANTE
GROUPS IN THAT REGION.

7. ANOTHER MAJOR CLASH BETWEEN THE ARMED FORCES AND THE
FARC OCCURRED IN META DEPARTMENT ON THE EASTERN PLAINS.
HEATED FIGHTING BEGAN JANUARY 28 AFTER A FARC UNIT
AMBUSHED AND KILLED FIVE MEMBERS OF A MILITARY PATROL IN
MESETAS. THE AMBUSH SITE WAS THE ROAD TO LA URIBE AND
THE RUGGED MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN SHIELDING THE

HEADQUARTERS OF THE FARC'S HIGH COMMAND. IN THE ENSUING PUNITIVE OPERATION JANUARY 29-31, MILITARY PATROLS PURSUED AND KILLED AT LEAST 5 FARC GUERRILLAS, WHILE FORCING THE REST TO FLEE TO THE ADJOINING CASANARE TERRITORY. THE ARMY'S INTENSE OPERATION IN THIS AREA, WHICH CONTINUED INTO FEBRUARY 1, WAS ALSO DESIGNED TO END FARC ATTACKS ON AND KIDNAPPINGS OF POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE REGION.

ELN LAUNCHES WIDE-RANGING TERRORIST CAMPAIGN

8. THE ELN'S LONG-THREATENED TERRORIST CAMPAIGN BEGAN IN EARNEST THIS REPORTING PERIOD. IN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5-12, THE ELN ASSASSINATED TWO NORTHERN MAYORS, INCREASED THE NUMBER OF ABDUCTIONS FOR RANSOM (ESPECIALLY IN SUCRE AND BOLIVAR DEPARTMENT), RESUMED ITS OFF-AND-ON ATTACKS ON THE CANO LIMON-COVENAS OIL

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03

BOGOTA 01697 02 OF 05 022322Z

PIPELINE, AND STAGED MILITARY ATTACKS IN THE NORTH AND SOUTHWEST (SEE BOGOTA 250). THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE MONTH, THE ELN STAGED SEVERAL INCURSIONS IN THE ATLANTIC COAST DEPARTMENTS OF CESAR AND BOLIVAR AND IN NORTE DE SANTANDER AND SANTANDER DEPARTMENTS IN THE NORTH.

ELN RESUMES NEW SABOTAGE CAMPAIGN ON OIL PIPELINE

9. THE ELN STAGED THREE BOMBING ATTACKS ON THE CANO LIMON-COVENAS OIL PIPELINE IN JANUARY. THE ACTS OF SABOTAGE PREVENTED THE EXPORTATION OF ONE MILLION BBLs OF CRUDE AND CAUSED CONSIDERABLE ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE. THE WORST INCIDENTS WERE THOSE OF JANUARY 18 AND 25. THE FIRST OCCURRED IN SARAVENA (CAUCA EASTERN PLAINS) AND CAUSED THE SPILLING OF 5,000 BBLs, SUSPENDED THE PUMPING OF 270,000 ADDITIONAL BBLs AND THE ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE INCLUDED FLUVIAL CONTAMINATION AND A FIRE. THE JANUARY 25 INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN NORTE DE SANTANDER AND DESTROYED 20,000 BBLs, CAUSING HEAVY ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE FOR 20 KMS. IN 1989, THE ELN STAGED 29 ATTEMPTS ON THE OIL PIPELINE, SPILLING A TOTAL OF 100,000 BBLs AND COSTING 1.7 MILLION USD IN LOST EXPORT REVENUES AND 13 MILLION USD IN DAMAGES. AN ELN "TRUCE" ON PIPELINE SABOTAGE IN EARLY 1989, HOWEVER, REDUCED THE DAMAGE FROM THIS ACTIVITY FOR THAT YEAR IN COMPARISON WITH 1988, DURING WHICH THE ELN COMMITTED 56 ACTS OF SABOTAGE ON THE PIPELINE. SHOULD THE RENEWED SABOTAGE CAMPAIGN

CONTINUE THROUGHOUT 1990, THE COST AND ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE FROM OIL PIPELINE SABOTAGE COULD BE WORSE THAN THAT OF 1989.

ELN LAUNCHES FUND AND RECRUITMENT DRIVES

10. ELN ATTACKS AGAINST SMALL RURAL MUNICIPALITIES ALSO INCREASED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD (SEE BOGOTA 250).

UNCLASSIFIED

ALONG WITH THE INCREASE IN ABDUCTIONS FOR RANSOM, THE


UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04

BOGOTA 01697 02 OF 05 022322Z

ELN ATTACKS ON AGRARIAN EXCHANGE OFFICES IN RURAL


UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN


PAGE 01

ACTION SCT-03

BOGOTA 01697 03 OF 05 022323Z

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-05 SS-00 EB-00 NSCE-00
ARA-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 SSO-00 L-03 CTME-00 NRCE-00
TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01 FAAE-00 CCO-00 INM-08 INRE-00
CA-02 CG-00 ACDA-13 A-00 USSS-00 USIE-00 JUSE-00
FBIE-00 DOEE-00 M-01 DS-01 IMMC-01 OIS-01 P-02
/051 W

-----152505 022343Z /60

O 022324Z FEB 90
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2533
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM PRIORITY
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DEA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

UNCLASSIFIED

SECTION 03 OF 05 BOGOTA 01697

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PINS, MOPS, SNAR, PHUM, EPET, PGOV, CO
SUBJECT: INDEX OF MAJOR VIOLENCE FOR JANUARY 1990 (90-2)

MUNICIPALITIES SUGGESTED AN ELN "FUND DRIVE." THIS NEED
FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS MAY BE LINKED TO THE FINANCING OF
THE ELN'S INCIPIENT SABOTAGE CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE
ELECTIONS AND THE OIL PIPELINE. RAIDS ON SMALL TOWNS
INCLUDED ELN HARANGUES URGING RESIDENTS TO SUPPORT THE
ELN AND NOT TO VOTE IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. THE ELN
STAGED "ARMED RECRUITMENT" RAIDS (I.E. ABDUCTIONS OF

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 01697 03 OF 05 022323Z

CAMPESINOS -- SEE BARRANQUILLA 026), POINTING UP A
SUDDEN NEED BY THAT GUERRILLA GROUP TO REPLENISH ITS
CANNON FODDER. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME ELN-RELATED
ACTIVITIES WORTHY OF NOTE WHICH OCCURRED IN THE SECOND
HALF OF JANUARY:

-- AFTER A HEATED ANTISUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN IN THAT AREA,
ARMY UNITS SEIZED AND DESTROYED AN ELN TRAINING CAMP IN
THE PERIJA SIERRA IN CESAR DEPARTMENT IN THE NORTH ON
JANUARY 16. AUTHORITIES RESCUED A KIDNAPPED RANCHER IN
THE OPERATION, IN WHICH TWO GUERRILLAS WERE KILLED AND
TWO OTHERS WOUNDED;

-- A JOINT COMMAND OF THE EPL AND ELN STAGED AN
INCURSION INTO MUTATA MUNICIPALITY IN THE URABA REGION
OF ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT JANUARY 16, KILLING FOUR POLICE
AGENTS, WOUNDING SIX AND ABDUCTING NINE OTHERS,
INCLUDING THE POLICE COMMANDER. THE GUERRILLAS RAIDED

THE AGRARIAN EXCHANGE OFFICES (CAJA AGRARIA) AND
SABOTAGED THE LOCAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE;

-- THE NATIONAL POLICE DISCOVERED AN "ELN WEAPONS
FACTORY" IN CODAZZI MUNICIPALITY IN CESAR DEPARTMENT ON
JANUARY 28. THE FACTORY CONTAINED SEVERAL FULLY
ASSEMBLED AUTOMATIC FIREARMS;

-- A 30-MAN ELN COLUMN ROBBED AND BLEW UP A HIGHWAY TOLL
BOOTH ON THE ROAD TO MEDELLIN IN ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT
JANUARY 28;

-- A LARGE ELN COLUMN ATTACKED THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF
AGUACHICA, CESAR DEPARTMENT, ON JANUARY 29, KILLING ONE
POLICE AGENT AND RAIDING THE LOCAL AGRARIAN EXCHANGE

 UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 01697 03 OF 05 022323Z

(CAJA AGRARIA). IN A COUNTERATTACK BY ARMY TROOPS,
SOLDIERS KILLED A GUERRILLA AND MANAGED TO DRIVE THE ELN
UNIT OUT OF THE AREA;

-- AN ELN UNIT KILLED ONE POLICE AGENT KILLED AND
WOUNDED ANOTHER DURING A SUBVERSIVE RAID ON THE RURAL
REGION OF ARBOLEDAS, NORTE DE SANTANDER DEPARTMENT ON
JANUARY 30. AFTER DESTROYING THE POLICE POST, THE ELN
RAIDED THE LOCAL AGRARIAN EXCHANGE AND FLED TO THE
MOUNTAINS;

-- TERRORISTS PRESUMABLY BELONGING TO THE ELN KILLED
MAJOR GERMAN CASTRO DIAZ, THE POLICE COMMANDER OF
CURUMANI, CESAR DEPARTMENT, ON JANUARY 31. ALSO KILLED
WERE THE MAJOR'S WIFE AND HIS POLICE ASSISTANT.
GUERRILLAS AMBUSHED THE MAYOR'S VEHICLE BY PLANTING
DYNAMITE CHARGES ON THE ROAD BETWEEN CURUMANI AND
VALLEDUPAR AND THEN DISPATCHED THEM VICIOUSLY WITH
AUTOMATIC GUNFIRE.

II. NARCO-RELATED VIOLENCE

SECURITY FORCES CAPTURE VIGILANTES, SEIZE NARCO ARSENAL

11. SECURITY FORCES CONTINUED HITTING RODRIGUEZ GACHA'S
CRUMBLING EMPIRE AND CALI CARTEL PROPERTY IN THE
REPORTING PERIOD (SEE BOGOTA 901). THE POLICE CAPTURED
KEY FIGURES OF A NOTORIOUS NARCO-LINKED VIGILANTE GROUP
CALLED "LOS MAGNIFICOS" (THE A-TEAM), SUSPECTED OF BEING
INVOLVED IN SEVERAL CAMPESINO MASSACRES. ARMY UNITS
SEIZED A 167-RIFLE ARSENAL STORED IN A FARM BELONGING
TO THE LATE RODRIGUEZ GACHA IN CUNDINAMARCA DEPARTMENT.

12. NO/NO NARCOTERRORIST BOMBING ATTACKS AGAINST THE
GOC OCCURRED IN JANUARY, BUT POLICE FOUND AND
DEACTIVATED A HALF-TON CAR BOMB IN NORTHERN BOGOTA ON
CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]
PAGE 04

BOGOTA 01697 03 OF 05 022323Z

JANUARY 16. OTHER NARCO ACTIVITY DECREASED THROUGHOUT

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED] UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN
[REDACTED]

PAGE 01
ACTION SCT-03

BOGOTA 01697 04 OF 05 022324Z

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-05	SS-00	EB-00	NSCE-00
	ARA-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00	L-03	CTME-00	NRCE-00
	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	CCO-00	INM-08	INRE-00

CA-02 CG-00 ACDA-13 A-00 USSS-00 USIE-00 JUSE-00
FBIE-00 DOEE-00 M-01 DS-01 IMMC-01 OIS-01 P-02
/051 W

-----152540 022344Z /60

O 022324Z FEB 90
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2534
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM PRIORITY
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DEA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

UNCLASSIFIED

SECTION 04 OF 05 BOGOTA 01697

SOUTHCOR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PINS, MOPS, SNAR, PHUM, EPET, PGOV, CO
SUBJECT: INDEX OF MAJOR VIOLENCE FOR JANUARY 1990 (90-2)

JANUARY, AS THE "EXTRADITABLES" RELEASED ABDUCTION
VICTIMS AND HANDED OVER ONE TON OF DYNAMITE TO THE
POLICE IN MEDELLIN AS PROOF OF "GOOD FAITH" OF THEIR
PEACE OFFERING TO THE GOC (SEE BOGOTA 841, 877 AND 1482).

MORE SCORE-SETTLING KILLINGS IN BOGOTA

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 01697 04 OF 05 022324Z

13. KILLINGS ATTRIBUTED BY AUTHORITIES TO
"SCORE-SETTLING" AMONG NARCO GROUPS FOLLOWING THE DEATH
OF KINGPING GONZALO RODRIGUEZ GACHA (SEE REFTTEL, PARA 8)
CONTINUED THIS REPORTING PERIOD. THE NUMBER OF BODIES
FOUND STREWN IN NORTHERN BOGOTA HIGHWAYS REACHED A TOTAL
OF 37 IN JANUARY. AS IN PREVIOUS INCIDENTS, MOST
VICTIMS HAD POLICE RECORDS FOR TERRORISM,
NARCOTRAFFICKING OR OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES. POLICE
IDENTIFIED ONE OF THE LATEST VICTIMS AS A SUSPECT IN THE
CASE OF THE CAR BOMB DEACTIVATED JANUARY 16.

III. KIDNAPPINGS

ABDUCTIONS INCREASE THREEFOLD IN JANUARY

14. GUERRILLA GROUPS, NARCOTRAFFICKERS AND COMMON
CRIMINALS KIDNAPPED 143 VICTIMS IN JANUARY, ACCORDING TO
MILITARY AND POLICE INTELLIGENCE REPORTS PUBLISHED IN
THE PRESS. THIS NUMBER REPRESENTS AN INCREASE IN
KIDNAPPINGS OF ALMOST 300 PERCENT, COMPARED TO THE SAME
MONTH IN PREVIOUS YEARS (NOTE: 41 PERSONS WERE KIDNAPPED

IN JANUARY 1988, AND 47 IN JANUARY 1989). THE NUMBER OF ABDUCTIONS FOR JANUARY 1990 COULD BE EVEN HIGHER, HOWEVER: MILITARY AND POLICE STUDIES ASSUME THAT 30 PERCENT OF ALL ABDUCTIONS IS NOT REPORTED TO THE POLICE BECAUSE SOME RELATIVES PREFER DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS.

15. MOST ABDUCTION VICTIMS ARE CATTLE RANCHERS, INDUSTRIALISTS, BUSINESSMEN, POLITICAL FIGURES AND EVEN CAMPESINOS. KIDNAPPINGS OCCUR IN ALMOST EVERY REGION OF COLOMBIA. IN JANUARY MOST HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN ANTIOQUIA (54), SANTANDER (23), AND VALLE DEL CAUCA (10) DEPARTMENT. OF THE 143 ABDUCTIONS, THE AUTHORITIES

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 01697 04 OF 05 022324Z

BELIEVE THAT 37 WERE COMMITTED BY THE ELN, 15 BY THE FARC, 2 BY THE EPL, AND 89 BY "COMMON DELINQUENTS." THE MOST NOTABLE INCREASE IN ABDUCTION HAS OCCURRED IN THE LATTER CATCH-ALL CATEGORY, ACCORDING TO ARMY INTELLIGENCE. THE MILITARY BELIEVE THAT THE "SWELLING" IN THIS CATEGORY IS DUE TO INCREASED ACTIVITY BY NARCO THUGS FORMERLY IN THE PAYROLL OF THE LATE GONZALO RODRIGUEZ GACHA. AFTER GACHA'S DECEASE HIS NOW UNEMPLOYED GANG MEMBERS ARE INCREASINGLY RESORTING TO ABDUCTION FOR RANSOM. ANOTHER CAUSE OF THE INCREASE MAY HAVE BEEN A "LIQUIDITY CRISIS" AMONG MEMBERS OF THE EMBATTLED MEDELLIN CARTEL. REPORTEDLY, THESE NARCOS BEGAN ABDUCTING NOTABLES IN DECEMBER-JANUARY TO QUENCH A (TEMPORARY?) NEED FOR READY CASH. THE GUERRILLAS, ESPECIALLY THE ELN, HAVE ALSO INCREASED THEIR RATE OF ABDUCTIONS. AS REPORTED IN PARA 10, SUBVERSIVES ARE ENGAGED IN A "FUND DRIVE" TO FINANCE THEIR CURRENT CAMPAIGN TO SABOTAGE THE ELECTIONS AND ARE ALSO "RECRUITING BY ABDUCTION" IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

GOC CATCHES FLAK, CREATES ANTI-KIDNAPPING GROUPS

16. IN THE REPORTING PERIOD THE GOC FACED HEAVY CRITICISM FOR ITS INABILITY TO STAUNCH THE RISING WAVE OF ABDUCTIONS, ESPECIALLY IN MEDELLIN AND SANTANDER, AS DIFFERENT GROUPS PROTESTED THE INCREASE IN KIDNAPPING INCIDENTS. ON JANUARY 17, PRESIDENT VIRGILIO BARCO RESPONDED TO THE CRISIS BY ORDERING THE CREATION OF SPECIALIZED ANTI-KIDNAPPING GROUPS WITHIN THE SECURITY FORCES. THESE GROUPS WILL CONCENTRATE THEIR OPERATIONS IN THE MOST HEAVILY AFFECTED AREAS.

IV. OTHER VIOLENCE

17. TWO MASSACRES, TANGENTIALLY RELATED TO COLOMBIA'S GUERRILLA AND NARCO VIOLENCE, OCCURRED IN THE REPORTING

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BOGOTA 01697 04 OF 05 022324Z

PERIOD:

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01697 05 OF 05 022324Z
ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-05	SS-00	EB-00	NSCE-00
	ARA-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00	L-03	CTME-00	NRCE-00
	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	CCO-00	INM-08	INRE-00
	CA-02	CG-00	ACDA-13	A-00	USSS-00	USIE-00	JUSE-00
	FBIE-00	DOEE-00	M-01	DS-01	IMMC-01	OIS-01	P-02

O 022324Z FEB 90
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2535
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM PRIORITY
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DEA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED] SECTION 05 OF 05 BOGOTA 01697

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PINS, MOPS, SNAR, PHUM, EPET, PGOV, CO
SUBJECT: INDEX OF MAJOR VIOLENCE FOR JANUARY 1990 (90-2)

-- HOODED GUNMEN KILLED 7 AND WOUNDED 13 RURAL RESIDENTS
IN NECOCLI (URABA REGION OF ANTIOQUIA) JANUARY 7.
AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED THAT KILLERS AND VICTIMS WERE ALL
EPL MEMBERS INVOLVED IN A LOOT-SHARING DISPUTE (SEE
BOGOTA 333);

-- AUTHORITIES ATTRIBUTED THE MASSACRE OF 12 RURAL
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 01697 05 OF 05 022324Z

RESIDENTS IN GOMEZ PLATA, ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT, ON
JANUARY 21, TO AN INTRA-NARCO DISPUTE. THE NARCO GROUP
CALLING ITSELF THE EXTRADITABLES, HOWEVER, CHARGED AN
ALLEGEDLY REVENGE-SEEKING POLICE GROUP WITH THE KILLINGS
(SEE BOGOTA 1482). THE 12 VICTIMS WERE MEMBERS OF A
VIGILANTE GROUP FINANCED BY NARCO KINGPIN PABLO ESCOBAR
GAVIRIA, ACCORDING TO THE POLICE. THE SAME SOURCE
INSISTED THAT THE 12 WERE KILLED IN REVENGE BY ANOTHER
GANG WHO BELIEVED THEY KILLED NINE OF THEIR FEMALE
ASSOCIATES LAST YEAR.
MCNAMARA

UNCLASSIFIED