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RELEASE IN FULL

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CEA-01	CG-00	SJK-01	COME-00	CTME-00	C-01	DEAE-00
	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	EXIM-06	E-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	FRB-03	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INM-01	INRE-00	INR-01
	INSE-00	ITC-01	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03	ADS-00	M-01
	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIG-01	OIS-01	OPIC-08	PM-01
	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-01	SP-01	SSO-00	SS-01	STR-20
	TRSE-00	T-01	USSS-00	/096W			

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R 112214Z JUN 92
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6180
 INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY LIMA
 AMEMBASSY MEXICO
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
 USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA
 CIA WASHDC
 DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L B O G O T A 0 8 7 6 4

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, ECON, PTER, CO
 SUBJECT: MEDELLIN SENATOR ON MEDELLIN VIOLENCE,
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 -- GUERRILLA/NARCO LINK.

REF: BOGOTA 2234

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. DURING A JUNE 9 BREAKFAST WITH LABATT AND POLOFF, LIBERAL MEDELLIN SENATOR ALVARO URIBE SAID OVERALL IMPUNITY IN THE CITY IS LOWER, BUT CRIMINAL VIOLENCE IS EXTREMELY HIGH. THERE ARE 150,000 UNDER/UNEMPLOYED IN MEDELLIN, A MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO ORGANIZED

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Marvin
 Russell, Senior Reviewer

3. URIBE REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THE NEED FOR PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT, BUT RECOGNIZES BUSINESSMEN'S FEAR OF VIOLENCE HAS KEPT THEM AWAY. HE ALSO BELIEVED MEDELLIN'S SOCIAL ATTITUDES HAVE TO CHANGE, THAT THE CITY NEEDS TO BE "RE-CHRISTIANIZED." (COMMENT: IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS URIBE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR JOB CREATION PROGRAMS IN OTHER CITIES AS WELL TO MITIGATE THE SHOCK CAUSED BY ECONOMIC LIBERALIZATION POLICIES.

4. URIBE SAID THE LAST TIME HE WAS IN MEDELLIN HE RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM SOMEONE DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MILICIAS POPULARES (POPULAR MILITIAS, GUERRILLA-LINKED DEATH SQUADS BASED IN MEDELLIN'S SLUMS) ASKING WHY HE AND OTHER MEDELLIN SENATORS DID NOT FAVOR SEPARATE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS ON A REGIONAL BASIS. URIBE ASKED WHY THE GROUP DID NOT

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FIRST STOP ITS ATTACKS. THE CALLER PROMISED TO CALL AGAIN.

5. URIBE PREDICTED THE ELN'S RECENTLY ANNOUNCED "ALL OUT WAR" AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE THE FORM OF A BOMBING CAMPAIGN AIMED AT TERRORIZING THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREATING CHAOS. URIBE BELIEVES THE ARMY REMAINS UNABLE TO WIN A MILITARY VICTORY OVER THE GUERRILLAS DESPITE BETTER EQUIPMENT AND MORE MEN. THERE ARE TOO MANY RAW RECRUITS AND PROFESSIONALISM IS STILL LACKING. THE ARMY NEEDS MORE MOBILE BRIGADES COMPRISED OF WELL-PAID, PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS WHO CAN TAKE THE OFFENSIVE AGAINST GUERRILLA STRONGHOLDS.

6. URIBE POINTED OUT THAT THE GUERRILLAS ARE WEALTHIER THAN EVER BECAUSE OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE NARCOTICS TRADE. HE RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO EDUCATE COLOMBIANS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF THE GROWING DEPENDENCE OF THE GUERRILLAS ON THE DRUG TRADE. URIBE SUGGESTED AN EXCHANGE OF CONGRESSMEN WITH THE US AS ONE WAY OF IMPARTING THIS INFORMATION.

7. COMMENT: URIBE, WHO RECENTLY SPENT SIX MONTHS IN HARVARD'S PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM, APPEARED

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. M-2013-01203 Doc No. C17423395 Date: 10/05/2017
GENUINELY INTERESTED IN GETTING THE WORD OUT ABOUT THE
GUERRILLA-NARCO LINK. HE COMES ACROSS AS A SERIOUS
INTERLOCUTOR, AND APPEARS TO GENUINELY WANT REGULAR
CONTACT WITH EMBOFFS. WITH EACH MEETING WE BECOME
LESS INCLINED TO BELIEVE THE NARCO TIES ATTRIBUTED TO
HIM (REFTEL).
HOBBS

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