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ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX340 MCN = 89074/27278 TOR = 890741629
PTTUZYUW RUEKJCS3993 0741629-UUUU--RUEALGX.
ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

P 151629Z MAR 89
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUFGAID/USEUCOM AIDES VAHINGEN GE
RUFDAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE//AEAGB-CI-AN//
RUFTAKA/CDRUSAINTELCTRE HEIDELBERG GE
RHFQAAA/CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//IN/IV/SP//
RHDLCNE/CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK//N2//
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RUEADNA/DNA WASHINGTON DC//OPAC/OPNA//
RUEAMCC/CMC CC WASHINGTON DC
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//
RUCGRRRC/NATS NRRC PENTAGON WASH DC
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUWSAAA/MAC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//INO//
RUEORNA/CDRUSAITAC WASHINGTON DC//KT//
RUDMNSC/NAVTECHINTCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUCLACC/CDR4THPSYOP GP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//
RUCIAEA/FTD WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH//SIIR//
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//EC-J2//
RUEALGX/SAFE

RUEADDS/DITDS
P 151643Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4011
INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 5699
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 5725
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 5285
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

BT

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BOGOTA 03993

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Date 6/30/05 Exemption _____

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42

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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: N/A

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

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

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE INDEX AND ANALYSIS FOR 1-15 MARCH

(89-4)

REF: BOGOTA 3032

1. SUMMARY: CONCERN OVER POLITICAL VIOLENCE SURGED IN THIS REPORTING PERIOD BY THE KILLING OF UP OFFICIAL ANTEQUERA AND THE CRITICAL WOUNDING OF LIBERAL SENATOR SAMPER SPARKED. THE GOC CONTINUED ITS PEACE TALKS WITH THE M-19 IN MEXICO CITY. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO A FOLLOW-UP MEETING IN BOGOTA IN LATE MARCH OR EARLY APRIL. THE FARC AND EPL GUERRILLAS SPOUTED PEACE RHETORIC BUT BELIED THESE EXPRESSIONS WITH ACTS OF INSURGENT VIOLENCE. IN WIDE-RANGING OPERATIONS IN THE NORTH AND CENTER, THE ARMED FORCES DEALT THE EPL SEVENTEEN FATALITIES IN TWO WEEKS. A NEW "LEFTIST PARAMILITARY GROUP" ANNOUNCED ITS EXISTENCE BY BURNING TWO CROP-DUSTING PLANES IN THE CONFLICT-RIDDEN URABA REGION. THIS INDEX/ANALYSIS STRESSES POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND PEACE DIALOGUE DEVELOPMENTS, WHICH OVERSHADOWED MILITARY/GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. END SUMMARY.

I. POLITICAL MURDERS

ANTEQUERA KILLING/SAMPER WOUNDING SPARK LEFTIST IRE

2. ON MARCH 3, GUNMEN CRITICALLY WOUNDED LIBERAL SENATOR AND PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL ERNESTO SAMPER PIZANO AND KILLED PATRIOTIC UNION (UP) OFFICIAL JOSE ANTEQUERA (BOGOTA 3379). THE ATTACK, AIMED AT ANTEQUERA WITH SAMPER AN UNFORTUNATE BYSTANDER, SPARKED COMMUNIST IRE AND PROVOKED WIDESPREAD CONCERN OVER THE HIGH LEVEL OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS STAGED AN ILLEGAL PROTEST DEMONSTRATION IN BOGOTA ON MARCH 9 AND CONFRONTED THE POLICE IN A SERIES OF ROCK-THROWING INCIDENTS (BOGOTA 3740).

OTHER POLITICAL KILLINGS:

DEATH SQUAD GOES ON KILLING SPREE IN ANTIOQUIA

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3. A BAND OF KILLERS SUSPECTED BY AUTHORITIES OF BELONGING TO A RIGHTIST DEATH SQUAD WENT ON A ASSASSINATION SPREE IN SOUTH EASTERN ANTIOQUIA (MAGDALENA MEDIO REGION) ON MARCH 4. THEIR SEVEN VICTIMS INCLUDED A NUN AND SEVERAL AGRARIAN RESIDENTS, ALL OF WHOM THE KILLERS APPARENTLY SUSPECTED OF HARBORING LEFTIST SYMPATHIES. NO SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED.

ONE META LIBERAL AND ONE SANTANDER SOCO KILLED

4. TWO DIFFERENT VIGILANTE GROUPS KILLED ONE LIBERAL POLITICIAN IN META AND A SOCIAL CONSERVATIVE COUNCILMAN IN SANTANDER ON MARCH 6. BOTH VICTIMS HAD PROTESTED THE ACTIONS OF DEATH SQUADS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE REGIONS. IN A MARCH 14 LETTER TO THE "EL TIEMPO" LIBERAL DAILY, THE LEADER OF THE META LIBERAL PARTY DENOUNCED THE KILLING OF 46 META LIBERALS IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS -- A TOTAL OF 88 LIBERALS MURDERED IN THAT DEPARTMENT SINCE 1985. MOST OF THESE MURDERS, THE LETTER READS, HAVE REMAINED UNSOLVED. THE LIBERAL LEADER DEPRECATED THE LACK OF MEDIA COVERAGE WHEN LIBERALS, AND NOT UP MEMBERS, ARE THE VICTIMS OF ASSASSINATION.

THREE WITNESSES TO LA ROCHELA MASSACRE KILLED

5. IN THREE SEPARATE ATTACKS ON MARCH 9 AND 10, UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN KILLED THREE WITNESSES TO LAST JANUARY'S "LA ROCHELA" MASSACRE OF JUDICIAL OFFICIALS. THE THREE WERE KILLED IN RURAL AREAS AROUND BARRANCABERMEJA, SANTANDER DEPARTMENT. THE MURDERERS TOLD THE WIFE OF ONE VICTIM THAT THEY HAD KILLED HER HUSBAND FOR HAVING INFORMED THE AUTHORITIES ON LA ROCHELA EVENTS.

A THIRD UP LEADER KILLED IN RISARALDA THIS YEAR

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/

6. MOTORCYCLE RIDING THUGS GUNNED DOWN SCHOOL TEACHER JORGE LUIS GARCES IN MISTRATO, RISARALDA DEPARTMENT, ON MARCH 13. GARCES WAS A UP ACTIVIST AND A LEADER OF THE LEFTIST-ORIENTED FECODE TEACHERS FEDERATION. HE HAD RECEIVED FREQUENT DEATH THREATS FROM RIGHT WING GROUPS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

page 67

UNCLASSIFIED

IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. LAST JANUARY, NORMALLY PEACEFUL RISARALDA DEPARTMENT EXPERIENCED THE VIGILANTE KILLINGS OF TWO OTHER UP LEADERS: PEREIRA COUNCILMAN GILDARDO CASTANO AND MARSELLA UP PRESIDENT RICAURTE OCAMPO (BOGOTA 1652, PARA. 11).

II. PEACE PLAN

GOC AND M-19 AGREE IN MEXICO TO FURTHER TALKS IN BOGOTA

7. THE GOC CONTINUED TO IMPLEMENT THE GOC'S PEACE PLAN IN MEETINGS BETWEEN PRESIDENTIAL PEACE COUNSELOR RAFAEL PARDO AND THE M-19 LEADERSHIP ON MARCH 3-5 IN MEXICO CITY (BOGOTA 3452). AT THE END OF THE MEETING, BOTH SIDES AGREED TO HOLD A "WORKING SESSION" IN BOGOTA AFTER EASTER WEEK WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES. THE WORKING SESSION WILL DEAL WITH THE RELOCATION OF M-19 ACTIVISTS TO "DEMOBILIZATION" AREAS, A STEP ENVISIONED IN THE GOC'S PEACE PLAN AS A HALFWAY STAGE TOWARDS PACIFICATION. THE UP PARTY HAS REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORKING SESSION UNTIL THE GOC PROVIDES "CONCRETE PROOF" THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO PROTECT UP REPRESENTATIVES. THE UP REFUSAL WAS IN REACTION TO THE KILLING OF JOSE ANTEQUERA ON MARCH 3 (SEE PARA 2 ABOVE).

FARC DECLARES CEASEFIRE AND EPL URGES PEACE TALKS, BUT...

8. THE FARC LEADERSHIP ON FEBRUARY 28 ORDERED A UNILATERAL CEASEFIRE AMONG ALL ITS FRONTS (BOGOTA 3191) IN RESPONSE TO THE FORMATION OF A PEACE COMMISSION IT HAD RECOMMENDED EARLIER (BOGOTA 3017). PRESIDENT BARCO EXPRESSED HOPES THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS NOT SIMPLY A CONTINUATION OF FARC EFFORTS TO PRESSURE THE GOC INTO A CEASEFIRE THAT WOULD NOT HINDER ON-GOING GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES. IN THE WEEK OF MARCH 5-12 THE ARMED FORCES CHARGED THAT THE FARC HAD VIOLATED ITS OWN CEASEFIRE IN AT LEAST THREE VIOLENT INCIDENTS (BOGOTA 3894). IN ANOTHER LETTER, DATED MARCH 14, THE FARC DENIED VIOLATING THE CEASEFIRE. AMENDING ITS EARLIER LETTER, THE FARC INSISTED THAT THE NEWLY FORMED "COMMISSION OF NOTABLES" (SEE BOGOTA 3191) SHOULD MEET FIRST WITH FARC REPRESENTATIVES, AND ONLY AFTERWARDS WITH THE REST OF THE SIMON BOLIVAR GUERRILLA COORDINATOR (SBGC).

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9. MEANWHILE, THE COMMANDERS OF THE POPULAR LIBERATION ARMY (EPL) GUERRILLA FRONT IN URABA (NORTHERN ANTIOQUIA) ISSUED MESSAGES ON MARCH 8-9 URGING THE GOC TO ENGAGE IN PEACE TALKS WITH THE ENTIRE SBGC (BOGOTA 3893). THE INTENTIONS EXPRESSED IN THE EPL'S PEACE MESSAGE WERE BELIED BY AN EPL RAID AND BANK HOLDUP NEAR BOGOTA ON MARCH 9 (SEE PARA 10, THIS CABLE). DESPITE THE EXPECTATIONS STIRRED BY THE PEACE RHETORIC OF THE FARC AND THE EPL, THE BARCO ADMINISTRATION REMAINED FULLY IN CHARGE OF THE PEACE PROCESS. IT CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT IT WILL NOT ENTER INTO DIALOGUE WITH ANY GROUP THAT DOES NOT SHOW A WILLINGNESS TO CEASE VIOLENT ACTIVITIES.

III. ARMY VS. GUERRILLA VIOLENCE INDEX

 ARMY FIGHTS EPL AND ELN IN SOUTHWESTERN ANTIOQUIA

10. IN THE REPORTED PERIOD, THE ARMED FORCES DEALT 17 FATAL CASUALTIES TO THE EPL GUERRILLA GROUP IN ANTIOQUIA, CALDAS AND CUNDINAMARCA DEPARTMENTS. ON MARCH 5-11 THE ARMY'S NUTIBARA BATTALION (TENTH BRIGADE) CONDUCTED OPERATIONS IN SOUTHWESTERN ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT AGAINST BOTH THE EPL AND THE ELN GUERRILLA GROUPS, ACCORDING TO DISCLOSURES TO THE PRESS BY 4TH BRIGADE COMMANDER GENERAL **JAIME RUIZ**.

-- ON MARCH 7 THE BATTALION CAPTURED FIVE MEMBERS OF AN ELN SABOTAGE UNIT IN SALGAR AND SEIZED WAR MATERIAL AND MILITARY DOCUMENTS. AS THE BATTALION PROCEEDED NORTH, A

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 003 *****/

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER WAS KILLED IN A CLASH WITH THE EPL IN URAO ON MARCH 9.

-- ON MARCH 11, HOWEVER, THE ARMY AND THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT OF THE NATIONAL POLICE (COES) KILLED FIVE GUERRILLAS OF THE EPL'S FABIO COSSIO FRONT IN LA TROYA, ALSO IN SOUTHWESTERN ANTIOQUIA (BOGOTA 3893). THE ARMY CAMPAIGN, WHICH IS STILL ON-GOING, IS INTENDED TO PROTECT ANTIOQUEAN GOLD MINERS AND FARMERS FROM GUERRILLA SABOTAGE AND EXTORTIONATE DEMANDS. MORE EPL CASUALTIES OCCUR IN CALDAS AND CUNDINAMARCA

 -- THE EIGHTH BRIGADE KILLED 3 EPL GUERRILLAS IN CALDAS DEPARTMENT ON MARCH 5;

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-- ON MARCH 9, NATIONAL POLICE UNITS KILLED 9 EPL SUBVERSIVES AND CAPTURED ONE IN A QUICK RESPONSE TO AN EPL RAID AND BANK HOLDUP NEAR BOGOTA (BOGOTA 3796). SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATIONS LED TO THE ARREST OF THREE SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF THE EPL'S URBAN SUPPORT NETWORK IN BOGOTA.

INSURGENT ACTIVITY MARS THE FARC'S CEASEFIRE

11. THE FARC'S MUCH-TOUTED CEASEFIRE (SEE PARA. 8, THIS CABLE) LED TO A REDUCTION IN THAT GROUP'S INSURGENT ACTIVITIES IN MARCH. BUT THE ARMED FORCES CHARGED THAT THE FARC'S 4TH, 12TH AND 22ND FRONTS PERPETRATED THREE CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS.

-- ON MARCH 5, SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF THE FARC'S 4TH FRONT BOARDED A LOCAL TRAIN IN SANTANDER AND KILLED A JUDICIAL POLICE AGENT;

-- ON MARCH 6, MEMBERS OF THE FARC'S 12TH FRONT SET UP ROAD BLOCKS IN SANTANDER DEPARTMENT, WHERE THEY MURDERED TWO CAMPESINOS AND BURNED SEVERAL VEHICLES; AND,

-- ON MARCH 11, A FARC COLUMN (22ND FRONT) INVADED A RURAL MUNICIPALITY NEAR BOGOTA AND SHOT TWO CAMPESINO RESIDENTS.

IV. OTHER VIOLENCE:

URABA: NEW LEFTIST GROUP BURNS BANANA PLANES

12. ON MARCH 6, TERRORISTS SET FIRE TO TWO CROP-DUSTING PLANES BELONGING TO THE NATIONAL BANANA GROWERS UNION (UNIBAN) IN URABA, NORTHERN ANTIOQUIA. ON MARCH 12, SOCIAL CONSERVATIVE SENATOR ALVARO LEYVA DURAN REVEALED TO THE PRESS A LETTER FROM A NEW LEFTIST GROUP CLAIMING AUTHORSHIP OF THE DEED. THE LETTER ANNOUNCES THE CREATION OF "COLOMBIA'S FIRST LEFTIST PARAMILITARY GROUP" AND DECLARES THAT THE "POPULAR MILITIAS OF URABA" ARE NOW OPERATING IN THE NORTHERN DEPARTMENTS OF ANTIOQUIA AND CORDOBA. ACCORDING TO THE MESSAGE, THE POPULAR MILITIAS ARE NOT LINKED WITH ANY GUERRILLA GROUP, BUT WERE FOUNDED TO SUPPORT THE GUERRILLAS AND TO COMBAT THE RIGHT-WING PARAMILITARY GROUPS.

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page 71

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