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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 09908 121952Z  
ACTION INL-01

INFO	LOG-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ARA-01	OASY-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EB-00	OIGO-01	UTED-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00
	MMP-00	SCT-00	STR-00	DSCC-00	DRL-09	/014W	
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O 091927Z OCT 96  
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2124  
 INFO NSC WASHDC  
 SECDEF WASHDC  
 DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
 USIA WASHDC 0436  
 DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC  
 DEA WASHDC  
 NDIC JOHNSTOWN PA  
 SECDEF WASHDC//OCDEPS//  
 DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE  
 FBI WASHDC  
 DIA WASHDC  
 CIA WASHDC  
 DIRONDCP WASHDC  
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

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STATE FOR INL, ARA/AND, L/LEI  
 STATE PLEASE PASS USTR K.LEZNY  
 NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS

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 ONDCP FOR BILL BOZIN  
 SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD  
 DEA FOR OF, OFL, OC, AX  
 JUSTICE FOR CRIM. WARREN, RICHARD AND NDDS/VAN VLIET  
 FBI FOR CID/IRS/IRU2  
 USIA FOR AR, I/GAR  
 TREASURY FOR OASIA/INL K. PARKINSON

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS  
 DATE/CASE ID: 22 MAY 2001 200004409

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TAGS: PGOV, PTER, PHUM, KCRM, SNAR, CO  
SUBJECT: SAMPER HOSTS GOVERNORS' MEETING ON CRIME

1. PRESIDENT SAMPER HOSTED A "SUMMIT ON PUBLIC ORDER" OCTOBER 8 TO BRING TOGETHER DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNORS, MAYORS, AND THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR, LABOR AND DEFENSE (ACTING) TO DISCUSS HOW TO ADDRESS COMMON CRIME. GOVERNORS PROPOSED CHANGES IN NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO CRACK DOWN ON JUVENILE OFFENDERS, TO OUTLAW POSSESSION OF EVEN SMALL AMOUNTS OF DRUGS, AND TO REDUCE PENALTIES FOR CAR THEFT AND CARRYING UNLICENSED WEAPONS (TO ALLOW THOSE CONVICTED TO SERVE PROBATION RATHER THAN JAIL TIME). GOVERNORS ALSO APPEALED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES.

2. ALVARO URIBE VELEZ, GOVERNOR OF ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT, USED THIS FORUM TO ADVOCATE THE PROLIFERATION OF THE CONTROVERSIAL CIVILIAN RURAL SECURITY COOPERATIVES KNOWN COLLECTIVELY AS "CONVIVIR." URIBE ARGUED THAT ANTIOQUIA'S 56 SECURITY COOPERATIVES, CONCEIVED TO PROVIDE COUNTER-GUERRILLA INTELLIGENCE TO LOCAL MILITARY AND POLICE AUTHORITIES, HAVE LED TO THE CAPTURE OF GUERRILLA LEADERS IN THE REGION. URIBE HAS ALSO CALLED FOR THE ARMING OF SOME OF THESE GROUPS, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT ORIGINALLY INSISTED WOULD CONSIST OF UNARMED, CIVIC-MINDED CITIZENS. SOME MAYORS IN ANTIOQUIA, HOWEVER,  
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INCLUDING MAYOR GLORIA CUARTAS OF APARTADO IN ANTIOQUIA'S URABA REGION, HAVE REJECTED THE CONVIVIR CONCEPT.

3. COMMENT: MOST HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVERS BELIEVE THE CONVIVIR GROUPS POSE A SERIOUS DANGER OF BECOMING LITTLE MORE THAN VIGILANTE ORGANIZATIONS. AN EMBASSY CONTACT AT THE DEFENSORIA DEL PUEBLO (OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN) CONFIRMED REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE DEFENSORIA HAVE BEGUN TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THESE GROUPS FOR EXCEEDING THEIR MANDATE. ONE SUCH COMPLAINT RECEIVED AT THE NATIONAL DEFENSORIA CITED A DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTED BY THE RURAL SECURITY COOPERATIVES OF NORTE DEL CAUCA WHO DECLARED THEIR INTENTION TO "PHYSICALLY ELIMINATE" 100 INDIVIDUALS ON AN ATTACHED LIST.

4. COMMENT CON'D: SAMPER PRESUMABLY CONVOKED THIS MEETING TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO GET TOUGH ON CRIME, AS WELL AS PROVIDING A FORUM FOR DEPARTMENTAL LEADERS TO AIR THEIR CONCERNS. HOWEVER, AS SOME OF THE GOVERNORS TOLD THE PRESS, THE SUMMIT PRODUCED NO CONCRETE RESULTS. GARZA

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INFO	LOG-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ARA-01	OASY-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
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TAGS: PGOV, PTER, PHUM, KCRM, SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: SAMPER HOSTS GOVERNORS' MEETING ON CRIME

1. PRESIDENT SAMPER HOSTED A "SUMMIT ON PUBLIC ORDER" OCTOBER 9 TOGETHER DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNORS, MAYORS AND THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR, LABOR AND DEFENSE (ACTING) TO DISCUSS HOW TO ADDRESS COMMON CRIMES PROPOSED CHANGES IN NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO CRACK DOWN ON JUVENILE OFFENDERS, TO OUTLAW POSSESSION OF EVEN SMALL AMOUNTS OF DRUGS, AND TO REDUCE PENALTIES FOR CAR THEFT AND CARRYING UNLICENSED WEAPONS (TO ALLOW THOSE CONVICTED TO SERVE PROBATION RATHER THAN JAIL TIME). GOVERNORS ALSO APPEALED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES.

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