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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: SNAR, PREL, CO
SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF DEMARCHE TO PRESIDENT GAVIRIA

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REF: BOGOTA 9583

1. SECRET - PARAGRAPHS AS MARKED.

2. (S) AMBASSADOR IS INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER THE
COUNTERNARCOTICS DEMARCHE (REFTEL, BUT WITH REVISIONS
PROVIDED SEPTTEL) TO PRESIDENT GAVIRIA AND INFORM HIM OF
DEMARCHE THAT PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES
MIKE SKOL (ARA) AND CRIS ARCOS (INM) PLAN TO GIVE TO
PRESIDENT-ELECT ERNESTO SAMPER IN NEW YORK ON JUNE 29.
THEY WILL ALSO PROVIDE SAMPER WITH NON-PAPER OF THE

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COUNTERNARCOTICS DEMARCHE.

3. (S) THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD INFORM GAVIRIA THAT. IN LIGHT OF NUMEROUS INDICATIONS THAT THE SAMPER CAMPAIGN (AND SAMPER HIMSELF) HAS CONNECTIONS WITH NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS, OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WILL BE PREDICATED ON SAMPER TAKING A TOUGH COUNTERNARCOTICS STANCE. SAMPER MUST ACT DECISIVELY TO COUNTER THE PERCEPTION THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION IS LINKED TO CALI TRAFFICKERS AND HE WILL THUS BE OBLIGATED TO IMPLEMENT

POLICIES FAVORABLE TO THEM. WE WILL SEEK CLARIFICATION OF SAMPER'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON COUNTERNARCOTICS, WHICH AS REPORTED IN SOME PRESS ITEMS, COULD IMPLY LACK OF COOPERATION ON COUNTERNARCOTICS. THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD SEEK GAVIRIA'S ASSISTANCE IN IMPRESSING UPON SAMPER THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR CONCERNS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF POSITIVE ACTION ON HIS PART.

4. (C) BEGIN TEXT OF TALKING POINTS:

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-- WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE ELECTION PROCESS WAS CARRIED OUT SO PEACEFULLY IN COLOMBIA. VOTER TURNOUT WAS IMPRESSIVE.

-- OUR COOPERATION ON A MULTITUDE OF ISSUES HAS BEEN CLOSE AND SUCCESSFUL WITH PRESIDENT GAVIRIA. WE HOPE WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THAT COOPERATION WITH YOUR ADMINISTRATION.

-- WE HAVE A FULL RANGE OF ISSUES OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO YOUR COUNTRY -- TRADE AND INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, TO NAME A FEW. TO AVOID JEOPARDIZING OUR COOPERATION IN THESE AREAS WE WILL NEED TO SEE PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING IMPORTANT COUNTERNARCOTICS GOALS. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO "DENARCOTIZE" OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT FIRST MAKING MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS TO "DENARCOTIZE" THE INFLUENCE OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS ON ISSUES AND EVENTS IN COLOMBIA WHICH THWART THE UNITED STATES' INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS THE ILLICIT DRUG TRADE.

-- AMBASSADOR FRECHETTE WILL HAVE THIS OBJECTIVE AT THE TOP OF HIS AGENDA WHEN HE ARRIVES NEXT MONTH. WE SEEK

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TO MAINTAIN CONTINUITY AS BOTH THE COLOMBIAN
ADMINISTRATION AND THE U.S. EMBASSY MAKE THEIR
TRANSITIONS.

-- IT IS BECAUSE OF OUR DESIRE TO SEE COLOMBIAN-U.S.
RELATIONS FLOURISH THAT WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT
THE WIDESPREAD PERCEPTION IN BOTH OUR COUNTRIES THAT
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YOUR CAMPAIGN AND CLOSE ASSOCIATES HAVE LINKS TO THE
DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS.

-- DURING YOUR VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST OCTOBER, AND
AGAIN DURING MORE RECENT VISITS BY MEMBERS OF YOUR
CAMPAIGN STAFF, WE HAVE RAISED WITH YOU OUR GRAVE
CONCERNS ABOUT CREDIBLE REPORTS OF ATTEMPTS BY THE CALI
CARTEL TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN YOUR CAMPAIGN.

-- MUCH EVIDENCE HAS COME TO LIGHT EVEN SINCE YOUR
MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR GELBARD IN OCTOBER WHEN THIS
ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED, THAT PEOPLE CLOSE TO YOU HAVE HAD
DIRECT CONTACT WITH AND SOLICITED FUNDS FROM MAJOR
CARTEL MEMBERS FOR YOUR PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

-- THE TAPED CONVERSATION MADE PUBLIC ON JUNE 22
BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE CALI ORGANIZATION AND ALBERTO
GIRALDO, WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN SPEAKING ON YOUR
BEHALF, IS ESPECIALLY DAMAGING.

-- WE ARE DEEPLY TROUBLED BY THE INFORMATION POINTING
TO THE INFLUENCE OF DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS IN
YOUR CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS CREATED THE PERCEPTION (OF THE
PUBLIC, THE PRESS, AND OUR RESPECTIVE CONGRESSES) IN
BOTH COLOMBIA AND THE UNITED STATES THAT DRUG
TRAFFICKERS HAVE USED INTIMIDATION AND FINANCIAL POWER
TO PURCHASE INFLUENCE IN YOUR ADMINISTRATION.

-- YOUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS SINCE YOUR ELECTION ON THE
DIRECTION OF YOUR COUNTERNARCOTICS POLICY HAVE NOT
CLEARLY INDICATED YOUR INTENT TO PURSUE A VIGOROUS
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STRATEGY. WE WOULD THEREFORE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BE MORE DIRECT AND FIRM IN YOUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING YOUR INTENT TO PURSUE THESE CRIMINALS AND DISMANTLE THEIR OPERATIONS.

-- WE UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE DENIED THESE ALLEGATIONS AND HAVE VOWED TO REMOVE FROM YOUR STAFF ANYONE FOUND TO HAVE SOLICITED TRAFFICKER CONTRIBUTIONS OR USED THEIR FUNDS TO INFLUENCE VOTES.

-- WE WELCOME THIS PLEDGE. BUT THE KEY IS ACTION. DENIALS ARE INSUFFICIENT. ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.

-- WE WANT TO REMAIN ENGAGED. LET US NOT LET THE PAST DESTROY THE FUTURE, BUT RATHER USE THE FUTURE TO OVERCOME THE PAST.

-- THERE ARE ACTIONS YOU CAN BEGIN TO TAKE NOW THAT WILL SIGNAL YOUR STRONG COMMITMENT. THESE INCLUDE YOUR APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS FOR KEY CABINET POSITIONS, SUPPORT FOR EXPEDITIOUS REPLACEMENT OF PROSECUTOR GENERAL DE GREIFF, AND INDICTMENT AND PROSECUTION OF CALI KINGPIN MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ OREJUELA.

-- WE HOPE YOU WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH THE SUPREME COURT IN THE SELECTION OF A PROSECUTOR GENERAL WHO WILL BE DEDICATED (WITH YOUR SUPPORT AND THAT OF THE COLOMBIAN CONGRESS) TO PROSECUTING AND SENTENCING THE KEY DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

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-- WE ARE COMPELLED BY OUR OWN LEGISLATION TO ASSESS ALLEGATIONS OF AIDING, ABETTING OR COLLUSION BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS.

-- I WANT TO STRESS TO YOU THAT OUR CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH COLOMBIA ON EVERY FRONT IS DEPENDENT UPON STRONG AND COMPREHENSIVE COOPERATION AS WELL AS DEMONSTRABLE RESULTS IN COLOMBIA'S EFFORTS AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING AND PRODUCTION.

COUNTERNARCOTICS CERTIFICATION

-- WE ARE ALSO PRESENTING TO YOU TODAY A DEMARCHE ON

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THE NARCOTICS CERTIFICATION PROCESS THAT AMBASSADOR BUSBY IS PRESENTING TO PRESIDENT GAVIRIA. WE WISH TO MAKE YOU AWARE OF THE LEGISLATIVE GUIDELINES FOR NARCOTICS CERTIFICATION AND SPECIFIC STEPS FOR COLOMBIA TO IMPROVE ITS COUNTERNARCOTICS PERFORMANCE DURING THE CURRENT YEAR.

-- PERFORMANCE BY THE COLOMBIA WORKING WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE VARIOUS PERFORMANCE COMPONENTS WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR A REVIEW IN BOTH AUGUST AND OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR. THE NEXT NARCOTICS CERTIFICATION DETERMINATION WILL BE MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BASED ON COLOMBIA'S COUNTERNARCOTICS PERFORMANCE DURING THIS YEAR.

-- THESE AREAS OF PERFORMANCE INCLUDE GOALS FOR JUDICIAL AND INVESTIGATIVE COOPERATION, ERADICATION, SEIZURES, AND MONEY LAUNDERING CONTROLS. AS YOU KNOW,
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WE HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT JUDICIAL COOPERATION WITH THE PRESENT PROSECUTOR GENERAL. IN ADDITION, SEIZURES--WHICH PROVIDE EVIDENCE FOR PROSECUTIONS--ARE DOWN.

-- IN THE CASE OF COLOMBIA, ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF CALI KINGPINS, ESPECIALLY MIGUEL AND GILBERTO RODRIGUEZ OREJUELA, ARE CRITICAL TO ENSURING CONTINUED U.S. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO COLOMBIA VIA OUR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THE SIGNING OF OUR 1994 LETTERS OF AGREEMENT FOR OUR CNP AND DAS PROJECTS COULD BECOME CONTINGENT UPON SWIFT PROSECUTORIAL ACTIONS BY COLOMBIA.

-- WE URGE YOU (SAMPER) TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE GAVIRIA ADMINISTRATION TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF COLOMBIAN INSTITUTIONS IN MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE 1988 UN CONVENTION.

-- SIMILAR DEMARCHES HAVE BEEN MADE TO OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE WE HAVE A COUNTERNARCOTICS PROGRAM, SETTING THE GOALS FOR BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION.

CHRISTOPHER

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