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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-01	OASY-00	DINT-01	DOEE-00
	EB-01	OIGO-01	FBIE-00	H-01	INM-02	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-16	JUSE-00	L-01	ADS-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00
	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09
	G-00	/059W					

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P 071923Z SEP 94
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3332
 INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY PANAMA
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY LIMA
 CIA WASHDC
 DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC
 DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE
 DIA WASHDC
 DEA WASHDC
 NSC WASHINGTON DC
 DIRONDCP WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//J2/J3//

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 13150 01 OF 03 071930Z
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BOGOTA 013150

FOR ARA, ARA/AND, INM
 JUSTICE FOR CRIM/WARREN, RICHARD; NDDS/VAN VLIET
 DEA FOR OF, OFL, AO, OK, DO, AX, NK
 NSC FOR RICHARD FEINBERG
 DIRONDCP FOR RICH PORTER
 USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PREL, KJUS, PGOV, PHUM, PINR, SNAR, CO
 SUBJECT: GOC OVERHAULS POLICE LEADERSHIP

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS
 DATE/CASE ID: 27 AUG 2001 200004321

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REF: A) BOGOTA 12452; B) BOGOTA 11604; C) BOGOTA 9372

1. (U) SUMMARY: IN A PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 2, MINISTER OF DEFENSE FERNANDO BOTERO ZEA DISCLOSED A MAJOR OVERHAUL OF THE LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE NATIONAL POLICE. WHILE REITERATING THE SUPPORT OF BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND HIMSELF FOR NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL OCTAVIO VARGAS SILVA, BOTERO ANNOUNCED THAT DEPUTY NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL FABIO CAMPOS SILVA AND DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL POLICE (DIJIN) GENERAL JAIRO RODRIGUEZ QUINONEZ WOULD BE RETIRED. ACCORDING TO BOTERO, THE NEW DEPUTY POLICE DIRECTOR WILL BE GENERAL GUILLERMO LEON DIETTES PEREZ, CURRENT POLICE ATTACHE AT THE COLOMBIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AND THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE DIJIN WILL BE COLONEL HUGO MARTINEZ POVEDA. MARTINEZ WAS HEAD OF THE JOINT POLICE/ARMY TASK FORCE THAT FELLED PABLO ESCOBAR (IN MEDELLIN LAST DECEMBER 2; HE RECENTLY HAS COME UNDER CRITICISM FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DURING THE HUNT FOR ESCOBAR (REF A).

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2. (U) BOTERO EMPHATICALLY DENIED THAT THE FORCED RETIREMENT OF CAMPOS OR RODRIGUEZ HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE NARCO-CASSETTES (REF C), DESPITE NUMEROUS RUMORS IN THE PRESS. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT GENERAL CAMPOS AND GENERAL VARGAS WERE IN SEVERE DISAGREEMENT AND THAT CAMPOS HAD BEEN INSUBORDINATE. TWO DAYS AFTER GENERAL CAMPOS' FORCED RETIREMENT, SEPTEMBER 5, PRESS REPORTS STATED THAT HE WAS BEING INVESTIGATED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN AIDING A CAPTURED NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER. A FORMAL INVESTIGATION APPARENTLY HAS NOT BEEN OPENED, BUT THE FISCALIA HAS REVIEWED THE TESTIMONY OF AN INFORMANT IN A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION. END SUMMARY.

SHAKE-UP IN POLICE LEADERSHIP

4. (U) DEFENSE MINISTER FERNANDO BOTERO ZEA ANNOUNCED A MAJOR SHAKE-UP WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL POLICE DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 2. TWO HIGH-RANKING GENERALS, DEPUTY NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL FABIO CAMPOS SILVA AND NATIONAL JUDICIAL POLICE DIRECTOR (DIJIN) GENERAL JAIRO RODRIGUEZ QUINONEZ HAVE BEEN FORCED TO RETIRE. THEY WILL BE REPLACED BY GENERAL

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GUILLERMO LEON DIETTES PEREZ, CURRENT POLICE ATTACHE AT THE COLOMBIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AS DEPUTY NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR AND COLONEL HUGO MARTINEZ POVEDA AS DIRECTOR OF THE DIJIN. GENERAL OCTAVIO VARGAS SILVA, HEAD OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, WAS TO REMAIN IN OFFICE, BOTERO SAID, BECAUSE BOTH PRESIDENT SAMPER AND HE HAD FULL CONFIDENCE IN HIS ABILITY TO HEAD THE ORGANIZATION.

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5. (U) ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 92 CHANGES WITHIN THE UPPER RANKS OF THE POLICE. AMONG THOSE CHANGES ARE REPLACEMENT OF THE POLICE CHIEFS IN BOGOTA, MEDELLIN AND CALI. BOTERO EXPLAINED THAT THE "TOTAL RESTRUCTURING" HAD BECOME NECESSARY IN ORDER TO MEET THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE OF PROVIDING BETTER PROTECTION FOR THE CITIZENRY AND BETTER MORAL, ORGANIZATION AND EFFICIENCY WITHIN THE POLICE.

INSUBORDINATION AND INEFFICIENCY

6. (U) BOTERO DENIED THAT THE FORCED RETIREMENT OF GENERALS CAMPOS AND RODRIGUEZ HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH EITHER THE INFILTRATION OF THE POLICE IN CALI (REF B) OR THE NARCO-CASSETTES (REF C). HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT GENERAL CAMPOS HAD BEEN INSUBORDINATE IN HIS DEALINGS WITH GENERAL VARGAS. FURTHER, BOTERO STATED, THIS INSUBORDINATION HAD PRECIPITATED THE CHANGES AND HAD ADVANCED THE GOVERNMENT'S TIMETABLE FOR ACCOMPLISHING THE RESTRUCTURING. WITH REGARD TO GENERAL RODRIGUEZ, BOTERO

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-01	OASY-00	DINT-01	DOEE-00
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	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00

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STR-01 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 PMB-00 PRME-01 DRL-09
G-00 /059W

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P 071923Z SEP 94
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3333
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LIMA
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JCS WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//J2/J3//

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BOGOTA 013150

FOR ARA, ARA/AND, INM
JUSTICE FOR CRIM/WARREN, RICHARD; NDDS/VAN VLIET
DEA FOR OF, OFL, AO, OK, DO, AX, NK
NSC FOR RICHARD FEINBERG
DIRONDCP FOR RICH PORTER
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, KJUS, PGOV, PHUM, PINR, SNAR, CO
SUBJECT: GOC OVERHAULS POLICE LEADERSHIP

TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE GOC HAD BEEN STUDYING THE POLICE
STRUCTURE AND HAD BECOME CONCERNED THAT THE DIJIN WAS NOT
FUNCTIONING WELL AS THE INTELLIGENCE ARM OF THE POLICE.

MARTINEZ'S HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS

7. (C) RODRIGUEZ'S REPLACEMENT, ACCORDING TO BOTERO, IS

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AN EXPERT IN INTELLIGENCE BECAUSE OF HIS EXPERIENCE AS THE HEAD OF THE SEARCH BLOCK (BLOQUE DE BUSQUEDA) THAT PURSUED PABLO ESCOBAR. THE RECENT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S (PROCURADOR) REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE BLOQUE DE BUSQUEDA (REFTEL), NOTING THAT THERE WAS A HIGH INCIDENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS RESULTING FROM ITS SEARCHES AND INTERROGATIONS. COLONEL MARTINEZ WAS NOT MENTIONED BY NAME IN THE REPORT, BUT AS HEAD OF THE UNIT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DIRECTING THE ACTIONS OF THE BLOQUE. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN ALLEGATIONS THAT THE BLOQUE (AND MARTINEZ) WAS CLOSELY TIED WITH "LOS PEPES" (A GROUP

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COMMITTED TO KILLING PABLO ESCOBAR) BECAUSE OF THEIR COMMON GOAL.

CAMPOS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE FISCALIA?

8. (U) ON SEPTEMBER 5, ONLY TWO DAYS AFTER GENERAL CAMPOS WAS FORCED TO RETIRE FROM THE NATIONAL POLICE, A TELEVISION NEWS STORY REPORTED THAT HE WAS BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE FISCALIA. THE FISCALIA'S INVESTIGATION, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, CENTERED AROUND ALLEGATIONS MADE BY A FACELESS WITNESS THAT CAMPOS HAD ASSISTED IN RELEASING A CAPTURED SHIPMENT OF COCAINE AND HAD SIGNED A RELEASE ORDER FOR A NORTH COAST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER. SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS INDICATE THAT THE FISCALIA IS REVIEWING THAT INFORMATION IN A PRELIMINARY, NOT FORMAL, INVESTIGATION.

9. (U) CAMPOS, IN STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS, DENIED THE ALLEGATIONS, NOTING THAT THE SHIPMENT OF COCAINE HAD BEEN BURNED BEFORE WITNESSES FROM THE FISCALIA. CAMPOS ALSO STATED THAT THE DRUG TRAFFICKER IN QUESTION WAS STILL CONFINED IN A JAIL IN BARRANQUILLA. FINALLY, CAMPOS ALLEGED THAT THE POLICE HAD INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION THAT INDICATED THAT THE ALLEGATIONS WERE PART OF A SMEAR CAMPAIGN AGAINST RESPECTED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT WAS BEING ORCHESTRATED BY THE CALI CARTEL.

AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH BOTERO

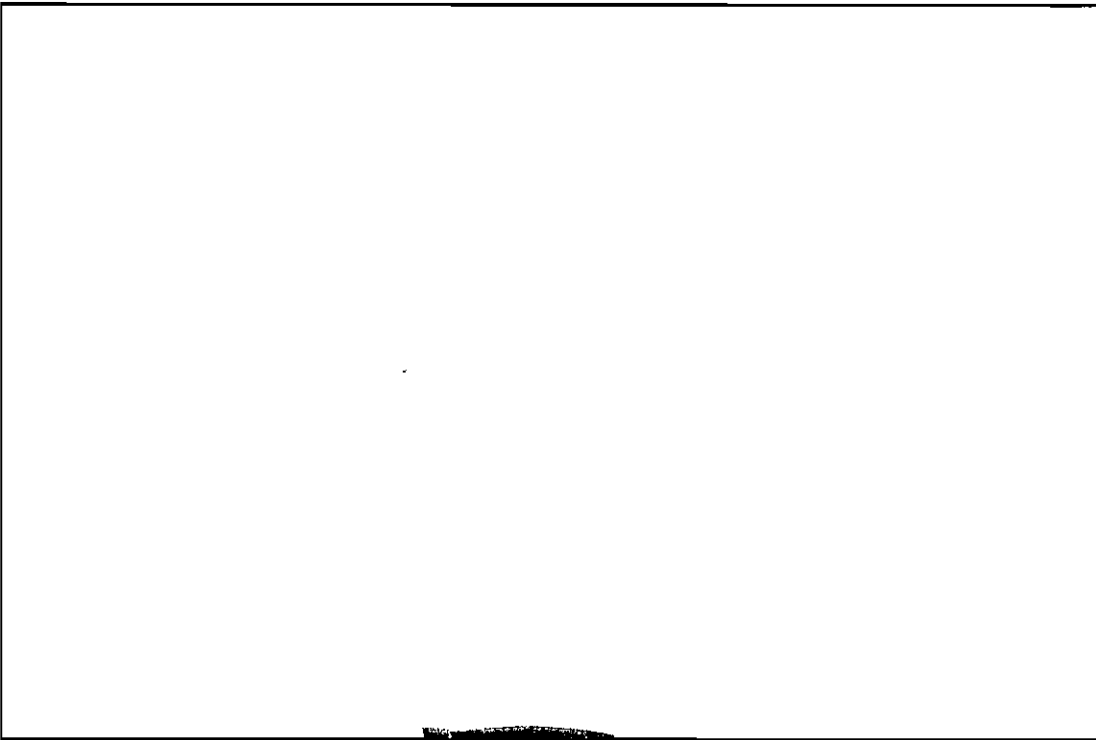
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3334
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
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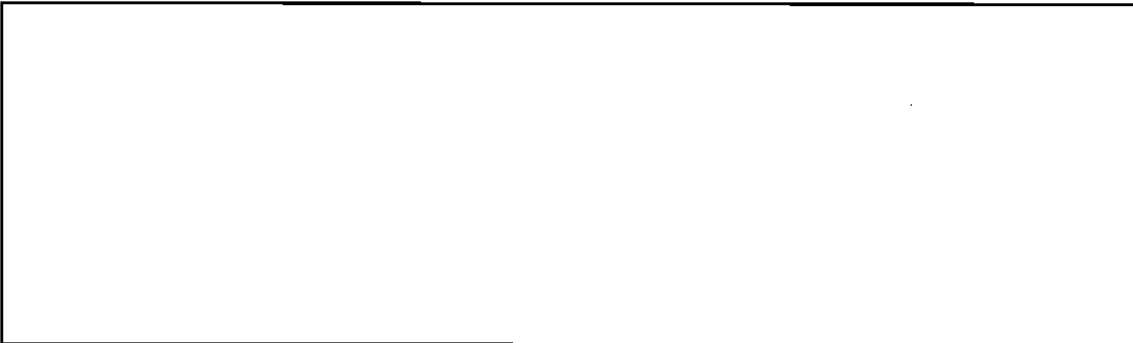
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