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ACTION INM-07

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-07	OIC-02	IO-19	NSCE-00
	ARA-00	NSAE-00	L-03	CTME-00	TRSE-00	OMB-01	INRE-00
	USIE-00	SP-02	DS-01	OIG-04	SCT-02	/048 W	
				-----110560 140721Z /25			

R 131513Z APR 89
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4684
 INFO DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
 DEA HQS WASHDC
 CIA WASHDC
 DIA WASHDC
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY LIMA
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY PANAMA

BOGOTA 05400

SOUTHCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PTER, PHUM, SNAR, CO
 SUBJECT: OPERATION DEMOCRACY AND PEACE: DAS ATTACKS NARCO
 ASSASSIN TRAINING CAMP, MORE RAIDS EXPECTED

REF: A) BOGOTA 5131: B) BOGOTA 4835

1. (C) SUMMARY: FOLLOWING THE CURRENT GOC CAMPAIGN
 AGAINST NARCOTICS RELATED PRIVATE ARMED GROUPS, THE
 POLICE DISCOVERED ANOTHER TRAINING CENTER IN THE EASTERN
 PLAINS OF META ON APRIL 7. THE DISCOVERY OF A MASS
 GRAVE POINTS TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF THESE GROUPS IN MANY
 OF THE KILLINGS AND KIDNAPPINGS AFFECTING THIS REGION

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WHERE THE LEFT-WING UNION PATRIOTICA (UP) HAS SUFFERED
HEAVY LOSSES. ANOTHER TRAINING CAMP SOME 150 MILES AWAY

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WAS SO WELL PREPARED THAT EMBASSY PERSONNEL BELIEVE FOREIGN EXPERTS WERE INVOLVED IN ITS PREPARATION (SEE REF A). END SUMMARY

2. (U) ON APRIL 7, 100 DAS (DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY) AGENTS RAIDED A RANCH NEAR PUERTO LOPEZ IN META DEPARTMENT AND DISCOVERED A RECENTLY ABANDONED TRAINING CAMP FOR 40 ASSASSINS ALONG WITH MASS GRAVES CONTAINING AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF BODIES, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. SOME OF THE BODIES ARE THOUGHT TO BE THOSE OF PATRIOTIC UNION (UP) ACTIVISTS WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED AND OF ASSASSIN TRAINEES WHO BROKE THE RULES. THE RANCH REPORTEDLY BELONGED TO VICTOR CARRANZA (A RODRIGUEZ GACHA ASSOCIATE), SUSPECTED OF ORGANIZING AND FINANCING SEVERAL MAJOR MASSACRES. THE RAID WAS THE FIRST MAJOR STRIKE OF "OPERATION DEMOCRACY AND PEACE," A DAS OFFENSIVE AGAINST PRIVATE ARMED GROUPS IN COLOMBIA. THE PRESS HAS BEEN PUBLISHING LEAKED DAS REPORTS DESCRIBING THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THESE GROUPS IN DETAIL.

3. (U) DAS EXPECTED A BATTLE WITH THE ASSASSINS BUT SOURCES SAID THE RANCH WAS ABANDONED THE DAY BEFORE THE RAID. ONLY A FEW ARMS WERE FOUND IN A LARGE UNDERGROUND DEPOSITORY. NEAT HAMMOCKS FOR FORTY MEN, AND COOKED FOOD FOR ONE HUNDRED ALONG WITH LARGE AMOUNTS OF LITERATURE (TRAINING GUIDES ETC.) WERE LEFT BEHIND.

4. (C) COMMENT: DAS HAS BEEN COLLECTING INFORMATION ON THESE GROUPS FOR SOME TIME (SEE REFTELS). THE PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT THE BAND OF RODRIGUEZ GACHA ASSASSINS

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PICKED UP IN BOGOTA LAST WEEK HAS GIVEN UP MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT. APPARENTLY THIS WAS A BRANCH "SCHOOL" OF THE MAIN OPERATIONS IN THE MAGDALENA MEDIO AREA. PRESIDENT BARCO RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL UNIT TO FIGHT THE PRIVATE NARCO-ARMIES. THE DISCOVERY OF THE BODIES SHOULD CLEAR UP AT LEAST SOME OF THE "DISAPPEARANCE" CASES THAT HAVE BEEN CLOGGING GOC FILES FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS, AND GIVE IMPETUS TO BOTH SIDES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE HERE. ON THE ONE HAND, THERE IS A DEFINITE COORDINATED CONSPIRACY TO KIDNAP, TORTURE AND MURDER LEFTISTS ON A LARGE SCALE; ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT

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THE CULPRIT.

5. (C) THE SITE OF THE CARRANZA RANCH IS ABOUT 150 MILES AWAY FROM ANOTHER TRAINING CAMP SEEN BY EMBASSY DEA AND NAU PERSONNEL LAST MONTH NEAR A PROPERTY SUPPOSEDLY OWNED BY RODRIGUEZ GACHA HIMSELF. THE POLICE WENT TO THIS SECOND RANCH IN THE BELIEF THAT IT WAS A NARCOTICS LAB. IN FACT, NO EVIDENCE OF INDICTABLE CRIMES WAS FOUND, BUT THE SLOGANS POSTED AROUND THE CAMP AND ITS PROFESSIONALLY LAYED OUT TRAINING AND SECURITY APPARATUS SUGGEST IT WAS A CENTER FOR RIGHT WING ACTIVITISTS, PROBABLY RELATED TO RODRIGUEZ. MCLEAN

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