SUBJ: USSOUTHCOM INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 057-98 (26 FEBRUARY 1998)

USSOUTHCOM INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

1. -TS7-EXCLUSIVE SUMMARY.
   A. -COLOMBIA: MAYOR’S ALLEGATIONS OVERBLOWN AMEMB REPORTS
      ALLEGATIONS MADE PUBLIC BY MAYOR OF PUERTO ASIS, PUTOMAYO, ARE
      EXAGGERATED AND MAY BE THE RESULT OF COERCION BY INSURGENTS. MAYOR
      NESTOR HERNANDEZ HAD ALLEGED THAT PARAMILITARY ATTACKS IN PUERTO ASIS
      HAD RISEN SHARPLY IN LATE JAN- EARLY FEB 98, AND THAT THE
      PARAMILITARIES WERE AIDED BY COLOMBIAN ARMY (COLAR) HELICOPTER
      TRANSPORTATION. COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE (CNP) REPORT THAT THEIR
      RECORDS FOR PUERTO ASIS SHOW 35 VIOLENT DEATHS IN JAN-FEB 97 COMPARED
      WITH 32 IN JAN-FEB 98, CONTRADICTING HERNANDEZ’ REPORT OF A SHARP
      INCREASE. HERNANDEZ WAS REPORTEDLY KIDNAPPED IN EARLY JAN 98 BY THE
      REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA (FARC), HELD FOR 11 DAYS, AND
      RELEASED WHEN AN UNNAMED “FRIENDLY BUSINESSMAN” CONTRACTED TO PAY USD
      37,000 PER MONTH INDEFINITELY ON HERNANDEZ’ BEHALF. UNDER THE ABOVE SCENARIO THE
      PROTECTION/RANSOM IS PAID TO THE FARC BY NARCOTICS PRODUCERS (80% OF
      PUERTO ASIS' ECONOMY IS REPORTEDLY BASED ON THE COCA TRADE) AND BOTH
      GROUPS PROFIT FROM THE MISFORTUNE OF THE COLAR. PUERTO A SIS IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 25 KM
      NORTH OF THE ECUADORIAN BORDER.

   B. -CCI- COLOMBIA: WEALTHY PARA SPONSOR ARRESTED ON 29 FEB, CO
      LEGAL AUTHORITIES IN BOGOTA ARRESTED EMERALD MINING KINGPIN AND
      LONGTIME PARAMILITARY CHIEFTAIN VICTOR CARRANZA, FOR WHOM AN ARREST
      WARRANT HAD BEEN ISSUED DEC 97. CARRANZA, REPORTEDLY ONE OF CO'S
      RICHEST AND LARGEST LANDOWNERS, IS CHARGED WITH SPONSORING ILLEGAL
      PARAMILITARY GROUPS. A SIMILAR CHARGE AGAINST CARRANZA WAS DISMISSED
      FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE IN THE EARLY 1990'S; CO IS ALSO PREPARING A
      HUMAN RIGHTS CASE AGAINST HIM. THIS ARREST IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF CO’S APPARENT DETERMINATION TO COMBAT THE
      PARAMILITARIES. CARRANZA IS EXPECTED TO EXERT HIS CONSIDERABLE POWER
      AND INFLUENCE IN AN ATTEMPT TO AVOID INCARCERATION.

   C. -CC- OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST.
      (1) -CA- CENTRAL AMERICA.
      (A) -U- GUATEMALA: GOVERNMENT EXTENDS CUBAN RAFTERS
      TEMPORARY PERMIT (PARIS AFP 25014122)
(2) SOUTH AMERICA.
(A) (U) COLOMBIA: EX-ISRAELI OFFICERS ACCUSED OF TERRORISM (REUTERS 251812Z)
(B) (U) COLOMBIA: INITIATIVE TO GRANT MORE POWER TO MILITARY ANNOUNCED (MEXICO CITY NOTIMEX 250726Z)
(C) (U) COLOMBIA: NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS CHIEF SPELLS OUT PLANS FOR 1996, PREPARES FOR SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN (LIMA AMERICA TELEVISION 240100Z)
(D) (U) PERU: FUJIMORI DOWNPLAYS ELL NIO, ASIAN CRISIS (LIMA AMERICA TELEVISION 240100Z)

(3) CARIBBEAN.
(A) (U) CUBA: CASTRO DARES US TO DESTROY REVOLUTION BY LIFTING EMBARGO (PARIS AFP 250233Z)
(B) (U) CUBA: ROBAINA DENIES CUBA TO GRANT MORE PARDONS (MEXICO CITY NOTIMEX 250436Z)
(C) (U) CUBA: CASTRO RE-ELECTED, VOWS SOCIALISM WILL OUTLIVE HIM (AP 251728Z)
(D) (U) HAITI: DEPUTIES WORK TOWARD AGREEMENT (PORT-AU-PRINCE RADIO 251200Z)

2. OVERALL MILITARY MOVEMENTS SINCE 24 FEB.
A. CUBA.
(1) (U) ARMY ACTIVITY. NSTR.
(2) (U) NAVY ACTIVITY.
(3) (U) AIR FORCE ACTIVITY.

B. SOUTH AMERICA.
(1) (U) ARMY ACTIVITY. NSTR.
(2) (U) NAVY ACTIVITY.
(3) (U) AIR FORCE ACTIVITY. NSTR.

C. CENTRAL AMERICA/CARIBBEAN.
(1) (U) ARMY ACTIVITY. NSTR.
(2) (U) NAVY ACTIVITY. NSTR.
(3) (U) AIR FORCE ACTIVITY. NSTR.

3. WATCH CONDITION (WATCHCON)/TERRORIST THREAT LEVEL STATUS.
(*) DENOTES CHANGE.

**KEY:**
WATCHCON I = IMMINENT CRISIS
WATCHCON II = PROBABLE CRISIS
WATCHCON III = POTENTIAL CRISIS
WATCHCON IV = ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS
WATCHCON V = NO ACTIVE WARNING PROBLEM
CRITICAL = EXISTENCE CAPABILITY AND TARGETING EXIST
HIGH = EXISTENCE, CAPABILITY, HISTORY, AND INTENTIONS EXIST
MEDIUM = EXISTENCE, CAPABILITY, AND HISTORY EXIST
LOW = EXISTENCE AND CAPABILITY EXIST
NEGLIGIBLE = EXISTENCE/CAPABILITY MAY OR MAY NOT EXIST

COUNTRY WATCHCON/DATE OF CHANGE THREAT LEVEL/DATE OF CHANGE A.

CENTRAL AMERICA
(1) BELIZE
(2) COSTA RICA
(3) EL SALVADOR
(4) GUATEMALA
(5) HONDURAS
(6) NICARAGUA
(7) PANAMA

AMERICA
(1) COLOMBIA (INTERNAL)
(2) PERU-ECUADOR
(3) ECUADOR
(4) PERU
(5) ARGENTINA
(6) BOLIVIA
(7) BRAZIL
(8) CHILE
(9) FALKLAND ISLANDS
(10) FRENCH GUIANA
(11) GUYANA
(12) PARAGUAY
(13) SURINAME
(14) URUGUAY
(15) VENEZUELA

CARIBBEAN REGION
(1) CUBA (REGIONAL)
(2) HAITI (INTERNAL)
(3) ARUBA
(4) ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
(5) ANGUILLA
(6) BARBADOS
(7) BAHAMAS
(8) BERMUDA
(9) CAYMAN ISLANDS
(10) DOMINICA
(11) DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
(12) GRENADE
(13) GUADELOUPE
(14) JAMAICA
(15) MARTINIQUE
(16) MONTserrat
(17) NAVASSA ISLANDS
(18) NETHERLAND ANTILLES
(19) SAINT KITTS & NEVIS
(20) SAINT LUCIA
(5) ANGUILLA
(6) BARBADOS
(7) BAHAMAS
(8) BERMUDA
(9) CAYMAN ISLANDS
(10) DOMINICA
(11) DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
(12) GRENADA
(13) GUADELOUPE
(14) JAMAICA
(15) MARTINIQUE
(16) MONTSERRAT
(17) NAVassa ISLANDS
(18) NETHERLAND ANTILLES
(19) SAINT KITTS & NEVIS
(20) SAINT LUCIA
(21) SOUTH GEORGIA & SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS
(22) SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINE
(23) TRINIDAD & TOBAGO V/NA
(24) TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS V/NA
(25) BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS V/NA