UNCLASSIFIED

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TAGS: PHUM, SNAR, KVPR, CVIS, ASEC, PINR, KJUS, KCRM, CO  
SUBJECT: CHARGE ASKS FISCALIA ABOUT VICTOR CARRANZA CASE  

REF: BOGOTA 2036  

CLASSIFIED BY POLOFF JULIANNE CHESKY. REASON 1.5(D).

1.  (C) ON MARCH 6, CHARGE MET WITH ________________

CHARGE EXPRESSED THE USG'S CONCERN OVER THE CASE OF ACCUSED PARAMILITARY CHIEFTAIN VICTOR CARRANZA (REFTEL) AND NOTED THAT COLOMBIA'S AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON MAY BE CALLED IN TO THE DEPARTMENT ON THE SUBJECT. HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS CASE IS BEING CLOSELY WATCHED IN WASHINGTON.

CHARGE SAID WE HAD HEARD FROM SOURCES THAT CARRANZA HAS BEEN BRAGGING THAT HE WILL BE OUT OF JAIL IN NO TIME BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT'S CASE AGAINST HIM IS SO WEAK.

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2.  (C) ________________ SAID THAT WHEN CARRANZA WAS ARRESTED THE FISCALIA WAS QUITE CONFIDENT THAT IT HAD A SOLID CASE AGAINST HIM FOR ORGANIZING ILLEGAL PARAMILITARY GROUPS, AND THAT IT CONTINUES TO BE CONFIDENT IN ITS CASE. OFFERED NO DETAILS, HOWEVER. GOMEZ PADILLA ALSO SOUGHT TO ASSURE CHARGE THAT CARRANZA WAS BEING SECURELY HELD, DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE IS NOT IN A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON WITH THE GENERAL PRISON POPULATION FOR HIS OWN SAFETY. HE IS INSTEAD CONFINED AT A DIJIN (JUDICIAL POLICE) INSTALLATION IN BOGOTA. ________________ PROMISED TO KEEP EMBASSY APPRISED OF PROGRESS IN THE CASE.

3.  (C) EMBASSY HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER ALSO DELIVERED THE MESSAGE OF THE U.S.'S CONCERN OVER THE CASE TO ________________ HAD NOT HEARD THE CARRANZA'S BOASTS REGARDING HIS EXPECTED QUICK RELEASE, AND SAID THAT WOULD TRACK THE CASE VERY CLOSELY. POLOFF ALSO SPOKE TO THE OFFICE PROSECUTING CARRANZA, WHO SAID THAT THE CASE WAS SOLID AND THAT THERE WAS "NO WAY" CARRANZA WAS GETTING OUT OF JAIL. GARZA


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