

[REDACTED]

INQUIRE=DOC21D
ITEM NO=00144425

ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX055 MCN = 93064/28741 TOR = 930641713
RTTCZYUW RUEKJCS1603 0641710-[REDACTED]-RUEALGX.
ZNY [REDACTED]

HEADER

R 051710Z MAR 93
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC
RUFGAID/USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE
USDP CRISIS COORDINATION CENTER WASHDC
RUDOGHA/USNMR SHAPE BE//SURVEY//
RUEOGWA/CDRUSARSO FT CLAYTON PM
RHHMCMY/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
RUVKSRT/12 AF BERGSTROM AFB TX//IN//
RUCEAAM/HQ NORAD INTEL CEN CHEYENNE MTN AFB CO//J2V//
RUETIAQ/MPC FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
RHCGRB/CINCFOR FT MCPHERSON GA//FCJ2-IC/FCJ3-OD//
RUCBSAA/USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA//J2//
RUWSMXI/AMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//
RUFTAKC/UDITDUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RULKQAN/MARCORINTCEN QUANTICO VA
RUDMONI/ONI SUITLAND MD
RULKNIS/COMNISCOM WASHINGTON DC//NAVATAC//
RUFTAKA/UCIRF AUGSBURG GE
RUEALGX/SAFE
R 051542Z MAR 93

[REDACTED]
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
INFO RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCJ2/SCCG//
RUWMEGA/USCINCSO HOWARD AFB PM//J3-DDN//
RULSJGA/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUANJTF/CJTF FOUR//J2//
RUWANGD/CJTF FIVE//J2//
RUEABNE/COGARD LO EPIC EL PASO TX
RUEBMRA/HQS/CUSTOMS WASHDC//INTEL/
BT
CONTROLS

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 03 [REDACTED]

SERIAL: (U) IIR [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

██████████
/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/
BODY

COUNTRY: (U) COLOMBIA (CO).

SUBJ: IIR ██████████ GENERAL JOSE SERRANO, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL POLICE ANTI-NARCOTICS DIVISION, DISCUSSES THE ANTINARCOTIC POLICE'S CURRENT EFFORTS AND STATUS (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 930302.

REQS: (U) ██████████

SOURCE: ██████████

SUMMARY: (U) GENERAL JOSE SERRANO, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL POLICE ANTINARCOTIC DIVISION, DISCUSSED SEVERAL ISSUES FACING THE ANTINARCOTIC POLICE AT A RECENT MEETING OF POLICE ATTACHES.

TEXT: 1. (U) DURING A POLICE ATTACHE MEETING ON 930302 GENERAL JOSE SERRANO, THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL POLICE ANTI-NARCOTIC DIVISION, TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL POLICE ATTACHES ASSIGNED TO BOGOTA ON THE CURRENT CHALLENGES FACING THE ANTINARCOTIC POLICE AND THE STATUS OF THE POLICE'S EFFORTS IN DRUG INTERDICTION WITHIN COLOMBIA. THE PRESENTATION WAS APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES.

2. (U) OPENING COMMENTS. FROM THE BEGINNING, GEN SERRANO REENFORCED THE POINT, IN HIS OPINION, THAT THE DRUG WAR WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING COLOMBIA TODAY. HE SAID THAT WHILE COUNTER-GUERRILLA OPERATIONS ARE IMPORTANT, AND CERTAINLY AN ISSUE OF IMPORTANCE TO NATIONAL SECURITY, THE EXISTING LINK BETWEEN THE GUERRILLAS AND THE NARCO'S IS SO CLOSELY RELATED TO ONE ANOTHER, THAT WHEN DISCUSSING NARCO'S ONE AUTOMATICALLY IS FORCED TO INCLUDE GUERRILLAS AS WELL.

3. (U) PABLO ESCOBAR SITUATION. GEN SERRANO STATED THE CALI CARTEL IS BENEFITING FROM THE DISORDER OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL AS A RESULT OF THE PRESSURES BEING
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[REDACTED]

BROUGHT TO BEAR AGAINST PABLO ESCOBAR BY THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE COLOMBIAN ARMED FORCES AND THE UNITED STATES. HE STATED THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS COMMITMENT TO CAPTURE PABLO ESCOBAR, OTHER POLICE COUNTER-DRUG OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY MAY BE SUFFERING TO SOME DEGREE.

4. (U) VALLE DE CAUCA. GEN SERRANO STATED THE ANTI-NARCOTIC POLICE ARE DEVOTING NUMEROUS OPERATIONAL RESOURCES TO THE VALLE DE CAUCA DUE TO THE PRESENT SITUATION OF POPPY AND COCA PLANT CULTIVATION TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT THIS AREA. HE INDICATED THERE WERE 44 KNOWN AIRFIELDS IN THE VALLE DE CAUCA AREA IN WHICH MANY ARE LEGITIMATELY USED FOR COMMERCIAL AND AGRARIAN NEEDS. AS AN EXAMPLE, CROP DUSTERS ARE NUMEROUS IN THIS AREA DUE TO THE LARGE AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES. AS A RESULT, CONDUCTING COUNTER-DRUG OPERATIONS AGAINST THESE AIRFIELDS IS A CHALLENGE BY HAVING TO SORT THROUGH LEGITIMATE AND NARCO-RELATED AIR TRAFFIC.

5. (U) HEROIN PROBLEM. GEN SERRANO VOICED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE POPPY CULTIVATION AND HEROIN PRODUCTION NOW TAKING PLACE IN COLOMBIA. GEN SERRANO WAS EQUALLY CONCERNED AS TO WHERE THE HEROIN LATEX WAS BEING SHIPPED TO ONCE PRODUCED. HE GUESSED THE MAJORITY OF THE LATEX IS BEING SHIPPED TO GUATEMALA AND/OR MEXICO. HE INDICATED THAT INTERNATIONALLY PRODUCED FIGURES ON WORLDWIDE HEROIN PRODUCTION INDICATES THAT ONLY ABOUT 1 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S HEROIN IS BEING PRODUCED IN COLOMBIA. ASIDE FROM THIS STATISTIC AND THE COMPARATIVELY LOW PRODUCTION RATE WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER HEROIN PRODUCING COUNTRIES, THE HEROIN ISSUE IS STILL AN IMPORTANT CONCERN FOR THE ANTINARCOTIC POLICE. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE POLICE DIDN'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THE QUALITY OF COLOMBIAN HEROIN WAS WHEN COMPARED TO THE OTHER WORLDWIDE PRODUCED HEROIN. GEN SERRANO DID INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS COMPARISON WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO HIM IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE STATED THE CALI CARTEL IS THE PRIMARY CARTEL BEHIND THE HEROIN PRODUCTION IN COLOMBIA.

6. (U) POPPY PLANT DESTRUCTION BY AERIAL FUMIGATION. THE RECENT COLOMBIA SUPREME COURT DECISION TO ALLOW THE POLICE TO CONTINUE ERADICATION OF POPPY PLANTS BY FUMIGATION WAS A CRITICAL VICTORY IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ERADICATE THE POPPY FIELDS. AN OPPOSITE RULING WOULD HAVE ESSENTIALLY CRIPPLED THE POLICE'S PRESENT ERADICATION PROGRAM AND WOULD HAVE GIVEN THE HEROIN PRODUCERS A MAJOR ADVANTAGE. GEN SERRANO FEELS THE CALI CARTEL WAS BEHIND THE GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT FOR THE CESSATION OF FUMIGATION WHICH ULTIMATELY WAS REVIEWED AND RULED ON BY THE COLOMBIAN SUPREME COURT. GEN SERRANO SAID THE MAJORITY OF HEROIN BEING SMUGGLED FROM COLOMBIA IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

THROUGH MULES SWALLOWING BALLOONS AND FLYING EITHER TO NEW YORK OR MIAMI. HE INDICATED 120 COLOMBIANS HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED IN THE UNITED STATES FOR TRANSPORTING HEROIN USING THESE MEANS.

7. (U) MARIJUANA SITUATION. SINCE NOVEMBER 1992, THERE HAS BEEN A SIZABLE INCREASE IN MARIJUANA CULTIVATION, SHIPMENT, AND SUBSEQUENT SEIZURES NOTED IN COLOMBIA. THE PRINCIPAL CULTIVATION SITES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF CESAR AND MAGDELENA. GEN SERRANO STATED HE DID NOT POSITIVELY KNOW WHY THERE WAS A SUDDEN INCREASE IN MARIJUANA CULTIVATION AND TRAFFICKING BUT OFFERED THAT THE CURRENT PRICING OF MARIJUANA IN THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING A LUCRATIVE VENTURE ONCE AGAIN. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT MANY OF THE SITES WHERE THE POLICE ARE FINDING POPPY CULTIVATIONS THEY ARE ALSO FINDING MARIJUANA PLANTS AS WELL.

8. (U) MARITIME SMUGGLING PATTERNS. GEN SERRANO STATED THE PORT OF BUENAVENTURA CONTINUES TO BE A FOCAL POINT BY THE CALI CARTEL TO SHIP THEIR COCAINE. HE INDICATED CARGO CONTAINERS ARE STILL A PRINCIPAL MEANS OF GETTING DRUGS OUT OF THE COUNTRY TO THEIR FOREIGN MARKETS. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE USE OF SMALL BOATS TO TRANSFER DRUGS FROM THE PORTS TO AWAITING VESSELS OFFSHORE IS A WIDELY USED TECHNIQUE AT THIS TIME. HE STATED THAT SMALL AIRCRAFT ARE INVOLVED IN A SIMILAR TRANSFER PROCESS WHEREBY THE PLANES, LADEN WITH DRUGS, RENDEZVOUS A SHORT DISTANCE OFF THE COAST OF COLOMBIA AND AIR DROP THE CARGO TO A MARITIME ASSET WHICH THEN CARRIES THE DRUGS TO THEIR FOREIGN MARKETS. GEN SERRANO INDICATED THAT ANOTHER MARITIME TRAFFICKING PATTERN HAS DEVELOPED WHEREBY SHIPS ARE AVOIDING COLOMBIAN PORTS ALL TOGETHER. THE IDEA BEHIND THIS IS THAT THE TRAFFICKERS ARE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT SHIPS CALLING ON NORTHERN PORTS, PRINCIPALLY THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO, ARE SUBJECTED TO A MORE THOROUGH INSPECTION BY CUSTOMS IF ONE OF THEIR PORTS OF CALL WAS COLOMBIA. THUS, TRAFFICKERS ARE FREQUENTLY ORCHESTRATING NARCO MOVEMENTS BY HAVING THE SHIPS COME OUT OF ECUADORIAN, PERUVIAN OR CHILEAN PORTS, RENDEZVOUSING WITH SMALLER BOATS/AIRCRAFT OFF THE COLOMBIAN COAST, TRANSFERRING THE DRUGS AND CONTINUING THEIR JOURNEY NEVER HAVING TO CALL ON COLOMBIA AND AVERTING THE SUSPECIONS OF CUSTOMS. (FIELD COMMENTS: SIZE OF VESSELS INVOLVED WERE NOT MENTIONED)

9. (U) THE FUTURE. GEN SERRANO SAID ONCE THE MEDELLIN AND PABLO ESCOBAR ISSUE IS RESOLVED, THE POLICE CAN GET BACK TO ATTENDING TO POLICE BUSINESS AS PREVIOUSLY KNOWN. PRESENTLY, LIFE IN COLOMBIA IS VERY COMPLICATED FOR THE CITIZENS OF COLOMBIA HAVING TO FACE CORRUPTION, DRUGS,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

AND THE VIOLENCE CREATED BY THE DRUG CARTELS. HE SAID THERE ARE TWO BASIC ERAS FOR THE MODERN COLOMBIAN WAY OF EXISTENCE, LIFE BEFORE THE NARCOS AND LIFE AFTER THE NARCOS. HE INDICATED THAT THE COOPERATION AMONG THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL POLICE AGENCIES IS PARAMOUNT IN COMBATING THE NARCO THREAT BOTH IN COLOMBIA AND WORLDWIDE AND EVENTUALLY, THROUGH THIS COOPERATION, SUBSTANTIAL GAINS CAN BE FURTHER REALIZED. GEN SERRANO STATED THAT THE PABLO ESCOBAR PROBLEM SHOULD BE CONCLUDED WITHIN ONE MONTH WITH HIS CAPTURE. HE STATED HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN AFTER ESCOBAR IS CAPTURED.

COMMENTS: 1. [REDACTED] BASIS FOR THIS REPORT WAS COMPLIED FROM NOTES TAKEN DURING THE BRIEFING; BRIEFING WAS IN SPANISH.

2. [REDACTED] OVERALL, THE COMMENTS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY GEN SERRANO APPEARED TO BE SINCERE AND FACTUAL ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT GENERAL IN NATURE.

3. [REDACTED] IT WAS UNCLER EXACTLY WHAT GEN SERRANO WAS TRYING TO PROJECT BY HIS STATEMENT CONCERNING THAT THE DRUG WAR WAS THE ONLY WAR FACING COLOMBIA. THERE APPEARS A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION WHEN THE ARMY AND THE POLICE TALK ABOUT THE GUERRILLA ISSUE. EVERY POLICEMAN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PUT ALL GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN WITH THE NARCO'S. THE ARMY FACTIONS, AND TO SOME DEGREE THE NAVY, SEE AN ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE NARCOS AND GUERRILLAS BUT DO NOT EXCLUSIVELY GROUP THEM AS ONE.

[REDACTED]

ADMIN

PROJ: (U).
INSTR: (U) U.S. [REDACTED]
PREP: (U) [REDACTED]
ACQ: (U) COLOMBIA, BOGOTA (930302).
DISSEM: (U) FIELD: EMBASSY AT BOGOTA.
WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED [REDACTED]

BT

#1605

NNNN

[REDACTED]