

R 300155Z MAY 98
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
R 292141Z MAY 98
FM [REDACTED]

(b)(2)

~~SECRET~~

SERIAL: (U) IIR [REDACTED]
COUNTRY: (U) COLOMBIA (CO).

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SUBJ: IIR [REDACTED] DEAD MAN WALKING -- RETIREMENT
EXPECTED SOON FOR CONTROVERSIAL GENERAL (U)
DOI: (U) 980416; 980519-980520.

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SOURCE: ~~(S)~~ [REDACTED]

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SUMMARY: ~~(S)~~ FOLLOWING REVOCATION OF HIS U.S. TOURIST VISA AND THE DEACTIVATION OF THE ARMY'S INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE, MANY OFFICERS EXPECT MAJOR GENERAL IVAN RAMIREZ TO BE RETIRED SOON AFTER A NEW PRESIDENT ASSUMES OFFICE IN EARLY AUGUST. RAMIREZ IS RAPIDLY BECOMING A HEAVY LIABILITY FOR BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS.

TEXT: 1. ~~(S)~~ CONVERSATIONS AMONG MID- AND SENIOR LEVEL INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS FROM THE COLOMBIAN ARMY'S (COLAR) INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE (DINTE OR E-2), INDICATE THAT DESPITE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SUPPORT, THE COLAR'S INSPECTOR GENERAL, MAJOR GENERAL IVAN ((RAMIREZ)) QUINTERO, IS EXPECTED TO BE RETIRED FROM ACTIVE DUTY SOON AFTER A NEW PRESIDENT ASSUMES OFFICE IN EARLY AUGUST 1998. THE ALMOST SIMULTANEOUS PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE REVOCATION OF HIS U.S. TOURIST VISA AND DEACTIVATION OF THE COLAR'S 20TH INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE, INDICATE THAT RAMIREZ HAS BECOME A "HOT POTATO" WHO IS RAPIDLY LOSING HIS INFLUENCE.

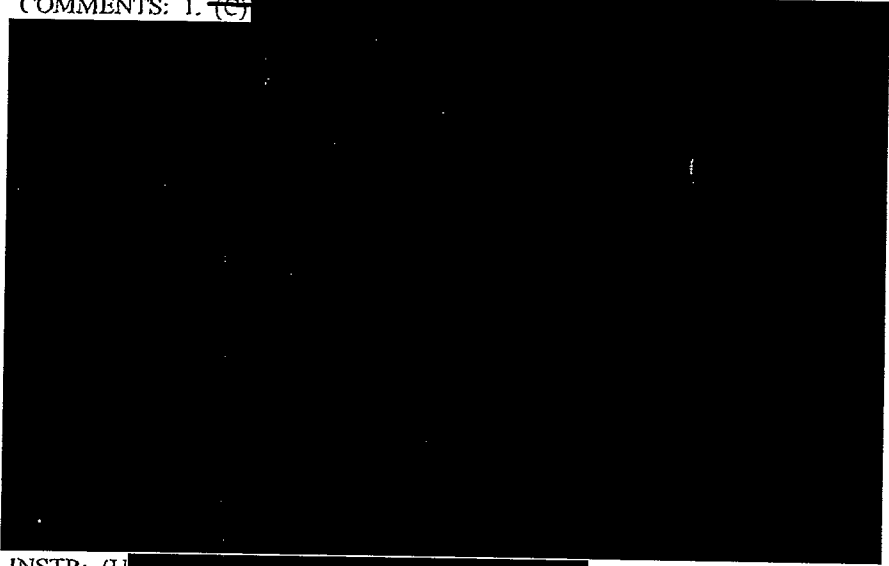
2. ~~(S)~~ THE 20 MAY PUBLIC SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR MG RAMIREZ BY THE MILITARY'S ACTIVE DUTY LEADERSHIP DOES NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT THE TRUE FEELINGS MOST COLAR OFFICERS HAVE TOWARD HIM. MANY OFFICERS COMMENT THAT THE SHOW OF SUPPORT WAS DONE MORE FOR "BASIC INSTITUTIONAL SOLIDARITY" REASONS THAN FOR ANY DEEP CAMARADERIE FELT TOWARD RAMIREZ. MORE THAN A FEW OFFICERS ARE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE RUMORS OF RAMIREZ'S ALLEGED LINKS TO PARAMILITARIES AND NARCOTRAFFICKERS. DESPITE THE PUBLIC SHOW OF SOLIDARITY BY SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIALS, MOST COLAR OFFICERS ARE SMART ENOUGH TO SEE THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL AND ARE DOING WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM RAMIREZ. MG RAMIREZ IS WIDELY PERCEIVED BY OTHER COLAR OFFICERS TO BE "DAMAGED GOODS," AND THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT "GUILT BY ASSOCIATION."

3. ~~(S)~~ THE TWO RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED A SERIES OF EVENTS WHICH HAVE SEVERELY UNDERMINED RAMIREZ'S ONCE POWERFUL STATURE WITHIN THE COLAR. LONG VIEWED AS THE "GODFATHER OF COLAR INTELLIGENCE," HIS INFLUENCE WITHIN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WAS SERIOUSLY UNDERCUT IN LATE 1997 BY THE FORCED OUSTER OF SEVERAL OF HIS CLOSEST

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER ALLIES. TOPPING THE LIST OF FORCIBLY RETIRED INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS ARE TWO FORMER 20TH BRIGADE COMMANDERS, COLONEL BERNARDO ((RUIZ)) SILVA, AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSE GUILLERMO ((RUBIO)) VARGAS. ANOTHER RISING INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, LIEUTENANT COLONEL CAMILO ((PULECIO)) TOVAR, A FORMER 20TH BRIGADE EXECUTIVE OFFICER ONCE SLATED TO BECOME THE NEW E-2, WAS ALSO FORCED INTO UNEXPECTED RETIREMENT.

4. ~~(S)~~ AS THE COLAR INSPECTOR GENERAL, MG RAMIREZ IS OFTEN OUT VISITING UNITS IN THE FIELD, AWAY FROM COLAR HEADQUARTERS IN BOGOTA. THIS HAS PREVENTED HIM FROM RECONSOLIDATING HIS POWER BASE AMONG A NEW BATCH OF INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS--PRIMARILY LIEUTENANT COLONELS WHO WERE PROMOTED LAST DECEMBER. HE SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE THE TIME NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK. FURTHERMORE, BOTH THE CURRENT E-2 AND THE COMMANDER OF THE NOW-DEFUNCT 20TH BRIGADE, ARE NON-INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS. THE E-2, COLONEL MARIO ((MONTOYA)) URIBE, AND THE FORMER 20TH BRIGADE COMMANDER, COLONEL PAUCELINO ((LATORRE)) GAMBOA, ARE BOTH CAVALRY OFFICERS. NEITHER IS BELIEVED TO "OWE ANY ALLEGIANCE" TO RAMIREZ--UNLIKE MOST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH OFFICERS. RAMIREZ IS BELIEVED TO HAVE LITTLE INFLUENCE OVER EITHER OFFICER. HE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE ALMOST NO INFLUENCE OVER COL MONTOYA, BECAUSE OF THE E-2'S CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COLAR COMMANDER, GEN MARIO HUGO ((GALAN)) RODRIGUEZ. SOME OFFICERS COMMENT THAT GIVEN HIS SUDDEN CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES, RAMIREZ "PROBABLY FEELS LONELY AND 'OUT IN THE COLD.'"

COMMENTS: 1. (C)



(b)(1)

INSTR: (U)

PREP: (U)

ACQ: (U)

DISSEM: (U)

WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~SECRET~~

DRV FROM: DHS SCG, OCTOBER 1997

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