

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 13647 061913Z
ACTION MCT-04

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-05 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SY-05 L-02 AMAD-01
TRSE-00 PM-05 PA-02 INRE-00 CA-02 A-02 USSS-00
SYE-00 USIE-00 FBIE-00 FAIM-01 SLPD-01 (AS-01 DEAE-00)

/030 W

-----135071 062241Z /38

O 061908Z NOV 85 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3441
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 13647

TERREP

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PTER, CO
SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACK ON COLOMBIAN PALACE OF
- JUSTICE

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT
2. BEGINNING AROUND 11:30 A.M. LOCAL TIMEPI
TDIDN IS THE BEST WE NOW HAVE:

-- A RADIO STATION HAS RECEIVED A TAPE, ANNOUNCING
THAT THE OPERATION "ANTONIO NARINO" WAS BEING CONDUCTED
BY THE M-19 IN SUPPORT OF "PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE."
AN M-19 BANNER IS REPORTEDLY FLYING.

-- THE FORCE INVOLVED IS ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 10
AND 30 GUERRILLAS.

-- ABOUT 100 PERSONS WERE IN THE PALACE OF JUSTICE
WHEN THE ATTACK BEGAN. EMBASSY HAS SPOKEN WITH
TWO BY TELEPHONE, INCLUDING ONE IN THE OFFICE OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 13647 061913Z

SUPREME COURT, WHO REPORTED THAT HE WAS "GUARDING
HIMSELF," PRESUMABLY ON THE FLOOR. NO PERSON INSIDE
THE PALACE HAS YET DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS "HOSTAGE,"
ALTHOUGH THE LONGER THE INCIDENT PROCEEDS THE BETTER
THE CHANCES THAT THE ATTACKERS WILL PENETRATE TO THE
OFFICES OF ONE OR MORE JUSTICES.

-- ARMY AND POLICE RE-INFORCEMENTS HAVE SURROUNDED

UNCLASSIFIED

THE AREA. ARMORED VEHICLES ARE REPORTEDLY IN THE PLAZA DE BOLIVAR, AND EMBASSY CAN CONFIRM ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND FIRE ENGINES EN ROUTE FROM OUR OWN OBSERVATION.

-- TWO WOUNDED PERSONS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN RESCUED BY POLICE.

-- PRESIDENT BETANCUR IS REPORTEDLY MEETING IN THE NEARBY NARINO PALACE TO COORDINATE COUNTER-ATTACK EFFORTS.

3. NO AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE BELIEVED INVOLVED.

4. EXTRA SECURITY PRECAUTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN FOR THE DEA CONFERENCE NOW UNDERWAY (AT A NORTH BOGOTA HOTEL SEVERAL MILES FROM THE PALACE). ALL EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO AVOID SOUTH-CENTRAL BOGOTA, AND EMBASSY GUARDS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON HIGHEST ALERT.

5. UPDATE: AS OF 1330, BOGOTA RADIO CARCOL CLAIMS TO HAVE AN M-19 TAPE ANNOUNCING AN OPERATION TO TAKE OVER THE SUPREME COURT AND DEMANDING THAT: ALL NEWSPAPERS PRINT A PROCLAMATION CRITICAL OF THE PEACE PROCESS; RADIO TIME FOR M-19; AND THAT BETANCUR "PRESENT HIMSELF" AT THE COURT FOR A CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 13647 061913Z

"TRIAL" OF THE PEACE PROCESS.

6. D-2 OF GOC DEFENSE STAFF TOLD DAO ABOUT 1300 LOCAL THAT GOC FORCES HAD "SURPRISED" M-19 AT START OF OPERATION AND GOC FORCES WERE "IN CHARGE" OF THE SITUATION. (NONETHELESS, WE NOTE FIRING IS CONTINUING).

7. UPDATE: AS OF 1400 LOCAL, RADIO REPORTS 3 EXPLOSIONS AND PALACE ON FIRE. ON 4TH FLOOR, FIRING INTO THE STREETS.

8. [REDACTED] THE GOC CRISIS MANAGEMENT TEAM IS MEETING. THE PERIMETER AROUND THE PALACE IS BEING HELD BY NATIONAL POLICE, AND FOUR SWAT TEAMS (OF TEN MEN EACH), ARE STANDING BY WITH HELICOPTERS FOR A POSSIBLE RESCUE MISSION, PENDING ORDERS FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. GILLESPIE

B1

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

UNCLASSIFIED