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DENIED IN FULL
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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-08 ACDE-00 INLB-01 AID-00 AS-01 ACQ-01
CA-02 INL-01 OASY-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 OIGO-01 FBIE-00
TEDE-00 INR-00 L-01 ADS-00 OCS-03 DSCC-00 DRL-04
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R 072251Z NOV 97
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9819
INFO DEA WASHDC
NDIC JOHNSTOWN PA
SECDEF WASHDC//OCDEPS//
DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DIRONDCP WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
NSC WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 3468
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 010672

STATE FOR ARA/AND, INL, L/LEI
NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS
ONDCP FOR JANET CRIST
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

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DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)

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DEA FOR OF, OFL, OC, AX
USIA FOR AR, I/GAR

Exemptions B1
ARP Action Cert [Signature] Date 11-29-97

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/7/02
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, SNAR, CASC, PINR, CO
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETINGS WITH MOD AND ARMED FORCES
COMMANDER

REF: BOGOTA 10350

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, M. GRAFELD, DAS, A/RPS, ACTING
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 4 MAR 2003 200203469
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 7 NOV 2012

CLASSIFIED BY POL/ECONOFF RBITTER. REASON 1.5(D).

1. (C) ON NOVEMBER 5, THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE GILBERTO ECHEVERRI AND, ON NOVEMBER 7, WITH ARMED FORCES COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL MANUEL JOSE BONETT. IN THESE MEETINGS, THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THREE OUTSTANDING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES: THE KIDNAPPED NEW TRIBES MISSIONARIES, THE OCTOBER PARAMILITARY MASSACRE IN MIRAFLORES, AND THE SUSPECTED TIES OF A HIGH-LEVEL ARMY OFFICER TO NARCOTRAFFICKERS AND PARAMILITARIES.

2. (C) NEW TRIBES MISSIONARIES. IN HIS MEETING WITH MINISTER ECHEVERRI, THE AMBASSADOR PRESSED THE MINISTER FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE THREE NEW TRIBES MISSIONARIES KIDNAPPED BY THE FARC IN JANUARY 1993. MINISTER ECHEVERRI HAD PROMISED THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WOULD MAKE FURTHER INQUIRIES REGARDING THE MISSING MEN, AND THE AMBASSADOR TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW UP ON THAT PROMISE. ON NOVEMBER 6, ECHEVERRI SENT THE AMBASSADOR A LETTER DATED OCTOBER 16 FROM ARMED FORCES COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL BONETT, ASSERTING THAT A PRIEST FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA FROM WHICH THE MISSIONARIES DISAPPEARED INFORMED THE GOC THAT THE MEN HAD BEEN ALIVE AS RECENTLY AS THE SUMMER OF 1996.

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3. (C) MIRAFLORES. THE AMBASSADOR THEN ASKED ECHEVERRI ABOUT THE MIRAFLORES MASSACRE OCTOBER 18-20. IN WHICH PARAMILITARIES KILLED SIX PEOPLE

THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR ROSSO JOSE SERRANO PROMISED A FULL REPORT OF THE DANTI'S ROLE, BUT THE AMBASSADOR WANTED TO BE SURE THAT ECHEVERRI WOULD LOOK INTO THE MILITARY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INCIDENT. ECHEVERRI TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT ONDCP DIRECTOR MCCAFFREY MENTIONED MIRAFLORES DURING THE MINISTER'S RECENT TRIP TO WASHINGTON, THAT AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ARMY'S ROLE IN THE INCIDENT WAS UNDERWAY, AND THAT BOTH THE ARMY AND POLICE REPORT WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY AS SOON AS THEY WERE READY.

4. (C) IN HIS MEETING WITH GENERAL BONETT ON NOVEMBER 7, THE AMBASSADOR REITERATED THE POINTS HE MADE TO MINISTER ECHEVERRI, AND URGED THE GENERAL TO MOVE QUICKLY ON AN INVESTIGATION SO THAT THE GOC'S SIDE OF THE STORY COULD BE TOLD. THE GENERAL ECHOED MINISTER ECHEVERRI'S PROMISE TO FULLY LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

5. (C) GENERAL'S TIES TO NARCOS AND PARAMILITARIES. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, THE AMBASSADOR SPOKE WITH JUAN CARLOS ESGUERRA, ECHEVERRI'S PREDECESSOR, ABOUT MAJOR GENERAL IVAN RAMIREZ

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QUINTERO, COMMANDER OF THE ARMY'S FIRST DIVISION, AND HIS SUSPECTED TIES TO NARCOTRAFFICKERS AND PARAMILITARIES. ESGUERRA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT

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Jury*

THE MINISTRY WOULD NEED EXTREMELY CONVINCING PROOF OF WRONGDOING TO REMOVE HIM.

6. (C) THE AMBASSADOR TOLD ECHEVERRI THAT THERE IS NOW MORE EVIDENCE SUGGESTING THAT RAMIREZ IS PASSING MILITARY INTELLIGENCE
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TO THE PARAMILITARIES, AND THAT THE INTELLIGENCE IS BEING USED AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS. THE AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF RAMIREZ WERE TO ATTAIN HIGHER RANK OR POSITION, IT WOULD SERIOUSLY COMPROMISE THE USG'S ABILITY TO COOPERATE WITH THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY. (NOTE. RAMIREZ WAS NAMED INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE ARMY LAST JULY, ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT YET ASSUMED HIS DUTIES. THERE IS NO FIXED DATE FOR WHEN HE WILL DO SO, ALTHOUGH BY TRADITION ALL GENERAL OFFICER PROMOTIONS AND REASSIGNMENTS ARE ANNOUNCED AT THE BEGINNING OF DECEMBER. END NOTE.)

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6. (C) THE AMBASSADOR REITERATED USG CONCERNS TO GENERAL BONETT WHO PROMISED TO FURTHER INVESTIGATE RAMIREZ'S BACKGROUND.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BOGOTA 010672

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7. (C) ALMOST AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT, BONETT THANKED THE AMBASSADOR
FOR PASSING ON THE INFORMATION AND REITERATED HIS INTENTION TO
LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

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