

CONFIDENTIAL

91425750  
TITLE: SUBJECT: NARCO NOTES FROM COLOMBIA  
ORIGDATE: 198901241819  
SOURCE: STATE  
DOCNO: OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 00987  
TEXT:

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA  
PERS/ORG

DECONTROLLED

TAGS: SNAR, KJUS, CO  
SUBJECT: NARCO NOTES FROM COLOMBIA  
I. CONTENTS  
I. COLOMBIAN JUSTICE: NARCO-KILLER GETS LIFE--IN FLORIDA

-----  
II. COLOMBIAN NARCOS ABROAD

-----  
III. GOING AFTER THE SOCCER CONNECTION

-----  
IV. SOME RECOGNITION OF U.S. ERADICATION EFFORTS

-----  
V. MEDELLIN CARTEL STATISTICS -- FROM GERMANY

-----  
VI. WHO KIDNAPPED THE PREACHERS?

-----  
VII. DRUG BARON INSULTED AT BEING CALLED DRUG BARON

-----  
VIII. ITALIAN JUDGE SAYS TRAFFICKING DESTROYS ECONOMIES

-----  
IX. PRISON DIRECTOR FINALLY FIRED OVER OCHOA AFFAIR

-----  
X. CARTEGENA JUDGE IN OCHOA CASE FREED ON BAIL

-----  
I. COLOMBIAN JUSTICE: NARCO-KILLER GETS LIFE--IN FLORIDA

-----  
2. (U) THE PRESS REPORTED THAT WILLIAM INFANTE, THE  
NUMBER ONE SUSPECT IN THE OCTOBER 1987 KILLING OF  
LEFTIST PATRIOTIC UNION PARTY CHIEF, JAIME PARDO LEAL,  
WAS GIVEN A LIFE SENTENCE WITHOUT POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE  
IN FLORIDA FOR NARCOTICS SMUGGLING. COLOMBIAN  
INVESTIGATORS CLAIMED INFANTE WAS HIRED BY MEDELLIN  
CARTEL CAPO, GONZALO RODRIGUEZ GACHA, TO MURDER THE  
LEFTIST LEADER BECAUSE OF FRICTION BETWEEN TRAFFICKERS  
AND GUERRILLAS. ALTHOUGH INFANTE HAS BEEN POSITIVELY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior  
Reviewer

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

IDENTIFIED BY THE COLOMBIANS AS THEIR SUSPECT, THEY WILL MAKE NO EFFORT TO EXTRADITE HIM.

II. COLOMBIAN NARCOS ABROAD

-----  
3. (U) COLOMBIANS APPEAR TO BE INVOLVED IN MANY OF THE MAJOR COCAINE STORIES THAT OCCUR OUTSIDE OF COLOMBIA, ACCORDING TO COLOMBIAN PRESS REPORTS. FOLLOWING IS A SHORT LIST OF RECENT REPORTED ACTIVITY OF THE CARTELS' FOREIGN SERVICE.

-- BETWEEN OCTOBER AND DECEMBER 1988, IN SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA, BOLIVIA, HUNDREDS OF ILLEGAL COLOMBIANS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND DEPORTED FOR CAUSING THE "COLOMBIANIZATION" OF THIS CITY, INCLUDING MORE THAN 50 ASSASSINATIONS DURING THIS TIME. A SPECIAL TELEPHONE NUMBER HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO DENOUNCE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES OF COLOMBIANS. AUTHORITIES ARE REPORTED TO BELIEVE THAT ALL ILLEGAL COLOMBIANS ARE EMPLOYED BY THE COLOMBIAN CARTELS, AND ARRIVE AND DEPART IN SMALL AIRPLANES WHICH LAND ON THE ROADS.

-- DECEMBER 12, 1988, PERU: TEN COLOMBIANS WERE AMONG 58 DRUG TRAFFICKERS ROUNDED UP BY POLICE IN A MAJOR OPERATION IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA VALLEY.

-- JANUARY 3, GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR: FOUR COLOMBIANS WERE CAPTURED WITH 40 KILOS OF COCAINE IN PACKETS CONTAINING MARKINGS OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL.

-- JANUARY 3, AMAZONIA, PERU: TWELVE NARCOS DIED IN CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN COLOMBIAN, PERUVIAN, AND BRAZILIAN TRAFFICKERS OVER OWNERSHIP OF A 600 KILO COCAINE SHIPMENT IN A COLOMBIAN AIRPLANE.

-- JANUARY 5, NEW YORK: ELEVEN COLOMBIANS WERE CAPTURED ALONG WITH 20 MILLION USD IN CASH; REPORTED TO BE CALI

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

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 03 BOGOTA 00987

SOUTHCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, KJUS, CO

SUBJECT: NARCO NOTES FROM COLOMBIA

CARTEL'S FINANCIAL CENTER IN NEW YORK.

-- JANUARY 7, GUATAMALA: TWO COLOMBIANS WERE CAPTURED WITH 349 KILOS OF COCAINE IN A CAR WITH U.S. PLATES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-- JANUARY 11, HAVANA, CUBA: ELEVEN COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKERS WERE RELEASED FROM A CUBAN PRISON AND DEPORTED TO COLOMBIA AFTER HAVING SERVED APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR OF THEIR TEN YEAR TERMS.

III. GOING AFTER THE SOCCER CONNECTION

-----  
4. (U) THE LEADERS OF THE COCAINE CARTELS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN BIG TIME SOCCER SINCE MURDERED JUSTICE MINISTER LARA BONILLA DENOUNCED THIS ACTIVITY IN 1983. RECENTLY, FRICTION BETWEEN THE CALI AND MEDELLIN CARTELS ENTERED THE SPORTING ARENA WHEN A REFEREE WAS KIDNAPPED BY NARCOS AND TOLD TO "BLOW HIS WHISTLE FAIRLY OR BE ERASED." (SEE BOGOTA 16739). THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOW FOUND A LEGAL TOOL TO ATTACK THE CAPO OWNERS OF SOCCER TEAMS WHERE IT HURTS. THE NARCO-OWNERS ARE ACCUSED OF PAYING FOREIGN PLAYERS LARGE SALARIES IN DOLLARS, WITHOUT APPLYING FOR LICENSES TO EXPORT FOREIGN EXCHANGE. BOTH GONZALO RODRIGUEZ GACHA OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL AND GILBERTO RODRIGUEZ OREJUELA, OWNERS OF SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TEAMS, HAVE BEEN IMPLICATED IN THIS ACTIVITY. AUTHORITIES HAVE PROMISED THAT INDICTMENTS WILL BE HANDED DOWN SOON. THE LARGE FOLLOWING CLAIMED BY SOCCER IN COLOMBIA HAS MADE THIS MAJOR NEWS HERE.

IV. SOME RECOGNITION OF US ERADICATION EFFORTS

-----  
5. (U) FOLLOWING LAST YEAR'S WAVE OF DISINFORMATION ON THE U.S. MARIJUANA CROP (E.G. LARGEST CASH CROP IN THE COUNTRY; NO ERADICATION), IT WAS GRATIFYING TO SEE AT LEAST A FEW MID-SIZED PUBLICATIONS PICK UP THE USIS WIRE SERVICE STORY ON LAST YEAR'S U.S. ERADICATION EFFORTS. THE STORIES FOCUSED ON THE UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF PLANTS ERADICATED AND PEOPLE ARRESTED, PARTICULARLY IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS. (COMMENT: THIS SHOULD HELP SOMEWHAT IN COUNTERING THE "FACTUAL DOCUMENTS" ON WHICH SOMETIMES VERY PROMINENT COLOMBIANS BASED THEIR CRITICISMS OF THE U.S. ANTI-MARIJUANA EFFORTS.)

V. MEDELLIN CARTEL STATISTICS -- FROM GERMANY

-----  
6. (U) THE GERMAN WEEKLY "DER SPIEGEL" PUBLISHED A MAJOR

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

ARTICLE ON THE MEDELLIN CARTEL WITH SOME INTERESTING STATISTICS WHICH WERE PICKED UP BY A BOGOTA DAILY. ACCORDING TO DER SPIEGEL, PABLO ESCOBAR EMPLOYS FOUR THOUSAND PEOPLE DIRECTLY AND SPENDS MORE THAN 100,000 USD MONTHLY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES OF THE AUTHORITIES. THE TRAFFICKERS ALSO OWN 500 OF THE 6000 DRUG STORES IN COLOMBIA AND HAVE GRADUATED MORE THAN 350 ASSASSINS FROM THEIR SCHOOLS FOR KILLERS.

VI. WHO KIDNAPPED THE PREACHERS?

-----  
7. (U) TWO AMERICAN MISSIONARIES WERE KIDNAPPED BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEL VALLE THE FIRST WEEK OF THIS YEAR. ANTI-EXTRADITION GRAFFITI WAS FOUND ON WALLS NEARBY TO THE EFFECT THAT ALL DEA AGENTS IN COLOMBIA WOULD BE KILLED AND CARLOS LEHDER WOULD BE RETURNED TO COLOMBIA.

8. (LOU) COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO BE A CRUDE ATTEMPT TO MISLEAD AUTHORITIES AS TO THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE CULPRITS. THE NARCOS HAVE KIDNAPPED BEFORE, BUT ONLY WHEN THERE WAS A DEFINITE THREAT AGAINST THEM, AND THEN ONLY HIGH LEVEL PEOPLE, IN ORDER TO MAKE THEIR POINT. THEY ALSO ARE NOT KNOWN TO USE GRAFFITI TO COMMUNICATE,

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

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 03 OF 03 BOGOTA 00987

SOUTHCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, KJUS, CO

SUBJECT: NARCO NOTES FROM COLOMBIA

BUT RATHER SEND LETTERS AND MAKE PHONE CALLS. ALSO NOBODY REALLY APPEARS TO WANT CARLOS LEHDER BACK, AND THE NARCOS KNOW THAT THE U.S. DOESN'T NEGOTIATE. OTHER POSSIBLE PERPETRATORS ARE GUERRILLA GROUPS WHO OPERATE IN THE AREA, THE M-19 AND FARC. WHEN THE NARCOS DID KIDNAP A PROMINENT MAYORAL CANDIDATE IN BOGOTA ONE YEAR AGO, THEY THREW AUTHORITIES OFF THE TRACK BY CLAIMING TO BE THE M-19. PERHAPS THE M-19 IS NOW RETURNING THE FAVOR. END COMMENT

VII. DRUG BARON INSULTED AT BEING CALLED DRUG BARON

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

9. (U) GILBERTO RODRIGUEZ OREJUELA, CHIEF OF THE CALI CARTEL, REACTED WITH INDIGNATION AT HAVING BEEN NAMED "DRUG BARON OF NEW YORK" BY THE BOGOTA DAILY "EL TIEMPO." IN AN 18 PARAGRAPH LETTER TO THE EDITOR HE PROTESTED THE "CALUMNY" OF BEING PUBLICLY LINKED TO A "GIGANTIC TRAFFICKING NETWORK UNEARTHED IN COLOMBIA (SEE BOGOTA 18616) WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATIONS OF AVIANCA SECURITY OFFICIALS." HE PROMISED LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE PAPER.

10. (LOU) COMMENT: RODRIGUEZ OREJUELA IS PROBABLY THE CLEANEST OF THE MAJOR CAPOS, AND TRIES TO BE RESPECTABLE AND STAY OUT OF TROUBLE, UNLIKE SOME OF HIS MORE VIOLENT COLLEAGUES IN THE MEDELLIN CARTEL. HE WAS TRIED ON U.S.-ORIGINATED NARCOTICS CHARGES WHEN HE WAS EXTRADITED FROM SPAIN WITH JORGE LUIS OCHOA IN 1984, AND WAS ACQUITTED OF ALL CHARGES. HE OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T LIKE HIS NAME ASSOCIATED IN PRINT WITH HIS BUSINESS. END COMMENT

VIII. ITALIAN JUDGE SAYS TRAFFICKING DESTROYS ECONOMIES

11. (U) THE ITALIAN JUDGE WHO ONCE LEAD THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON THE POPE CAME TO COLOMBIA TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCES ON NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, TERRORISM, AND HUMAN RIGHTS, IN CALI, MEDELLIN, AND BOGOTA. FERNANDO IMPOSIMATO TOLD HIS COLOMBIAN AUDIENCES THAT THE MAJOR DANGER OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING LIES IN THE DESTRUCTION AND DISTORTION OF THE LEGAL ECONOMY, TO THE SOLE BENEFIT OF THE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS.

IX. PRISON DIRECTOR FINALLY FIRED OVER OCHOA AFFAIR

12. (U) THE WHEELS OF COLOMBIAN JUSTICE TURN SLOWLY BUT SOMETIMES SOME PEOPLE ARE PUNISHED FOR SOME THINGS. ON JANUARY 19, THE JUSTICE MINISTER FINALLY FIRED THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF PRISONS, EDUARDO FERRO TORRES, FOLLOWING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATION OF SEPTEMBER 26, 1988, AFTER AN INVESTIGATION INTO FERRO'S ROLE IN THE DECEMBER 29, 1987 RELEASE FROM PRISON OF NARCO CAPO JORGE LUIS OCHOA. FERRO WAS ACCUSED OF OPENING THE "PICOTA" PRISON AFTER HOURS, AND OF NOT INFORMING MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE OF PRISON

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

SECURITY OF THE LEGAL ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BY OCHOA'S LAWYERS.

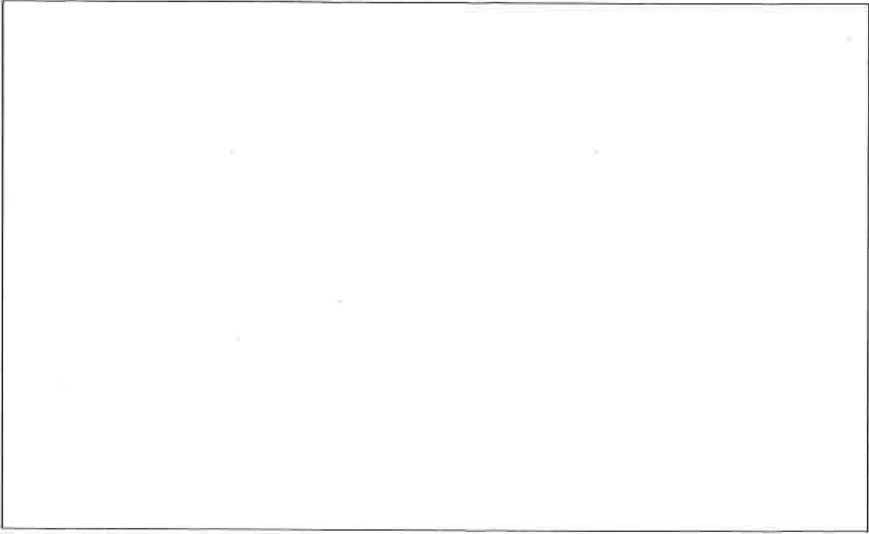
X. CARTEGENA JUDGE IN OCHOA CASE FREED ON BAIL

13. (U) ON THE OTHER HAND, THE WHEELS OFTEN GRIND TO A HALT. THE CUSTOMS JUDGE WHO CONVICTED OCHOA OF BULL SMUGGLING IN 1984 WAS SUBSEQUENTLY JAILED FOR "IRREGULARITIES." (HE SENTENCED OCHOA TO JAIL FOR TWO YEARS BUT THEN DID NOT ENFORCE THE SENTENCE, LETTING OCHOA GO DESPITE AN OUTSTANDING WARRANT FOR EXTRADITION.) THIS JUDGE WAS HIMSELF FREED ON BAIL RECENTLY WHEN THE TIME LIMIT FOR BEGINNING HIS TRIAL CAME AND WENT. HE HAD ALREADY SPENT SIX MONTHS IN JAIL.

MCNAMARA

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL



B3 CIA PERS/ORG

89 1624351 SCR

NC 1624351

TOR: 241900Z JAN 89

BOGOTA 00987

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL

CONTROLS: C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 00987 SOUTHCOM FOR POLAD E.O. 12356

N/A

DECLASSON: MR

DOCPREC: R

DOCST: ACTIVE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DOCTYPE: IN  
DOCUMENT\_ID: 91425750  
DOR: 19890124  
FROM: FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
GUIDE-UID: 1012/2qbbzh  
HEADER: RR RUEAIIA  
DE RUEHBO #0987/01 0241823  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R <ORIGDTG>241819Z JAN 89</ORIGDTG>  
<FROM>FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA</FROM>  
<TO>TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2674</TO>  
INFO RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHDC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC  
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 3224  
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 4914  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 5515  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 5480  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 5091  
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 2440  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0813  
RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 0668  
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM  
BT

INPUT\_ID: 89 1624351  
ORIGIN:  
PRODUCER: OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA  
RECEIPT DATE: 89 162435119890124190000  
SOURCE-INFO: STATE IN R OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 00987 OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 198901241819  
TAGS: TAGS: SNAR, KJUS, CO  
TO: TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2674  
TOR: 190000

CONFIDENTIAL

7