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TITLE: SUBJECT: "WANUMAN PAPERS" REPORTEDLY DESCRIBE NARCO
INTELLIGENCE NET IN GOC

ORIGDATE: 198906090123

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 08619

TEXT:

TAGS: SNAR, PGOV, CO

SUBJECT: "WANUMAN PAPERS" REPORTEDLY DESCRIBE NARCO
INTELLIGENCE NET IN GOC

REF: BOGOTA 8732

1. (S) SUMMARY: THE COLOMBIAN MEDIA IS ALIVE WITH RUMORS OF A POSSIBLE NARCO NETWORK OF INFORMANTS IN HIGH PLACES IN THE GOVERNMENT. THE RUMORS ARE BASED ON A STACK OF DOCUMENTS CAPTURED BY COLOMBIAN SECURITY FORCES IN THE POSSESSION OF A RETIRED ARMY CAPTAIN PAID BY MEDELLIN NARCOS. EMBASSY CAN CONFIRM THE EXISTENCE OF THE DOCUMENTS.

2. IN A SOBER TALK WITH THE AMBASSADOR, PRESIDENT BARCO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT WIDESPREAD NARCO PENETRATION OF GOVERNMENT IMPLIED IN DOCUMENTS. HE HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF SOME ACCUSATIONS ("SO MANY NAMES MENTIONED" THAT IT IS NOT CREDIBLE) BUT WAS WITHHOLDING JUDGEMENT PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE INVESTIGATION HE HAS ORDERED. MEANWHILE, THE MEDELLIN CARTEL IS APPARENTLY ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL THE DAMAGE TO ITS INFORMANT NETWORK WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM THE CAPTURE OF THESE DOCUMENTS. A MAJOR SCANDAL COULD BE IN THE OFFING. END SUMMARY

3. (U) AFTER DAS CHIEF GEN. MAZA REFERRED TO CAPTURED DOCUMENTS FOLLOWING THE UNSUCCESSFUL ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON HIM LAST WEEK, THE PRESS BROKE A STORY JUNE 3 THAT SECURITY OFFICIALS HAD CAPTURED TWO MEN WITH DOCUMENTS CONTAINING INFORMATION ON A NARCO NETWORK OF WELL-PLACED INFORMANTS THROUGHOUT THE GOC SECURITY AND JUDICIAL APPARATUS. THE DOCUMENTS WERE FOUND ON FORMER

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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ARMY CAPTAIN, JOSE WANUMAN, AND AN ACCOMPLICE, WHO WERE CAPTURED DAYS BEFORE THE CAR BOMB ATTEMPT AGAINST MAZA (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE DOCUMENTS DETAIL THE EXISTENCE OF INFORMANTS AT HIGH LEVELS IN THE SUPREME COURT, THE JUSTICE MINISTRY, THE COUNCIL OF STATE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, THE NATIONAL POLICE, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY (DAS). THE REPORTS ALSO MENTION "TOP SECRET" DOCUMENTS FROM THE US EMBASSY AND DEA BEING INCLUDED IN THE TAKE.

4. (U) ONE ARTICLE IN A MAJOR BOGOTA DAILY NOTED THAT DAS (FBI EQUIVALENT) USED THE INFORMATION IN THE DOCUMENTS TO PLACE TELEPHONE TAPS. THEY THEN INTERCEPTED A CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO MEN THOUGHT TO BE PABLO ESCOBAR AND GONZALO RODRIGUEZ GACHA DISCUSSING THE NECESSITY OF LIBERATING WANUMAN AND HIS ACCOMPLICE. SHORTLY THEREAFTER TWO POLICE OFFICERS WERE ARRESTED FOR TRYING TO BRIBE ANOTHER OFFICIAL INTO SIGNING A RELEASE ORDER FOR THE TWO SUSPECTS.

5. ANOTHER TAP REPORTEDLY INTERCEPTED A CALL BY SOMEONE NAMED "GUSTAVO" TO "A HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICE" ORDERING THAT ALL METHODS BE USED TO PREVENT THE PUBLIC RELEASE OF THE DOCUMENTS. REPORTERS CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN THE DOCUMENTS. PRESIDENT BARCO HAS REFUSED TO CONFIRM THE INFORMATION TO REPORTERS, TELLING THEM INSTEAD TO BEWARE OF RUMORS. MINGOV OREJUELA BUENO CATEGORICALLY DENIED TO A QUESTIONER IN VALLEDUPAR JUNE 7 THAT THERE WAS ANY "INFILTRATION AT HIGH GOVERNMENT LEVELS."

6. (U) SEVERAL GROUPS FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, THE JUSTICE MINISTRY, AND THE JUDICIARY WERE FORMED TO LAUNCH AN INVESTIGATION BASED ON THE DOCUMENTS. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS ORDERED HIS INVESTIGATORS NOT TO RELEASE ANY INFORMATION WITHOUT HIS EXPRESS PERMISSION (HINTING THAT LEAKS TO THE PRESS MAY HAVE COME FROM THAT QUARTER). THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION (BY AN INVESTIGATIVE JUDGE) HAS BEEN "POSTPONED" FOR THE TIME BEING, BECAUSE THE JUDGE CLAIMS TO HAVE TOO MUCH OTHER WORK.

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7. (S) EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF THE DOCUMENTS. WE ARE STILL TRYING TO SEPARATE FACT FROM RUMOR. WE HAVE ASSURANCES THERE ARE NO EMBASSY OR DEA DOCUMENTS IN THE CACHE. IN FACT THE REFERENCE TO COMPROMISED GOC AND USG ORGANIZATIONS APPEARS TO BE JUST ONE LETTER FROM A PERSON CLAIMING TO HAVE ACCESS TO S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BOGOTA 08619

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SNAR, PGOV, CO
SUBJECT: "WANUMAN PAPERS" REPORTEDLY DESCRIBE NARCO VIRTUALLY ALL INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO THE CARTEL. THE AUTHOR WAS APPARENTLY SEEKING EMPLOYMENT WITH THE CARTEL.

8. (C) THE MOST DAMAGING ALLEGATION, STILL - WE STRESS - UNPROVEN, CONNECTS MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT RAUL OREJUELA BUENO TO THE CALI CARTEL, ALONG WITH THE HEAD OF THE NATIONAL POLICE DETECTIVE AGENCY (F-2), COL. PELAEZ. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN TOLD THAT THE TELEPHONE TAP MENTIONED IN PARA 2 WAS ON THE PHONE OF THE GOVERNMENT MINISTER, AND THE CALL WAS FROM MEDELLIN CARTEL CHIEF RODRIGUEZ GACHA, BUT THAT THE PRESS IS RELUCTANT TO PRINT THE SPECIFICS OF SUCH POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE INFORMATION UNTIL THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED OF ITS AUTHENTICITY.

9. (S) THE AMBASSADOR BROACHED THE SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT BARCO LATE JUNE 8. BARCO DID NOT HAVE A FINAL EVALUATION OF THE DOCUMENTS YET. HE FELT INFILTRATION WAS NOT AS SERIOUS AS THE PRESS INDICATED, BUT HE RESERVED FINAL JUDGMENT UNTIL ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS ARE COMPLETED. HE SAID THERE WERE JUST TOO MANY NAMES INCLUDED IN THE DOCUMENTS: THAT ALL COULD NOT BE WORKING FOR THE NARCOS. MOREOVER, THE NAMES WERE NOT VERY EXACT IN THAT MATRONYMS WERE FREQUENTLY NOT INCLUDED, MAKING POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION DIFFICULT AND CASTING SUSPICION

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OVER A WIDER RANGE OF PEOPLE.

10. WHEN ASKED IF HE THOUGHT SENIOR POLITICAL FIGURES AND MINISTERS WERE CONNECTED, BARCO RESPONDED THAT SUCH INFORMATION WAS JUST RUMOR AT THIS POINT, AND PREFERRED NOT TO SPECULATE FURTHER. REGARDING THE MINUTES OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ALSO FOUND ON WANUMAN, BARCO SAID THAT SUCH LEAKS WERE A SOURCE OF CONCERN, BUT NOTED ALSO THAT THERE ARE 20& COPIES MADE OF THE MINUTES OF EACH MEETING, MAKING CONTROL DIFFICULT. BARCO DID NOT THINK THE NARCOS HAD UNLIMITED ACCESS GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS. ON GENERAL SECURITY MATTERS HE SAID THAT THE POLICE WERE MORE PENETRATED THAN GEN. MAZA'S DAS, AND DEFERRED ON FURTHER SPECULATION PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE INVESTIGATION.

7. (S) COMMENT: THE COLOMBIAN PRESS IS AGGRESSIVE AND INDEPENDENT, BUT STORIES GET DISTORTED WHEN THERE ARE NO MEANS TO CONFIRM LEAKS THEY ARE GETTING FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES. IF THE STORY IS TRUE, WE MAY BE WITNESSING A DESPERATE ATTEMPT AT DAMAGE CONTROL ON THE PART OF THE NARCOS FOLLOWING THE FAILED PLANS TO ELIMINATE THE POLICE AND DAS HIGH COMMAND. IT IS APPARENT THAT THE NARCOS LOST SOMETHING WHEN GENERAL MEDINA SANCHEZ WAS RELIEVED OF COMMAND OF THE NATIONAL POLICE IN JANUARY. THEY ARE CURRENTLY BEING HIT HARD. WE COULD YET SEE A SCANDAL INVOLVING HIGH GOC OFFICIALS. PRESIDENT BARCO RECOGNIZES AND ADMITS THE PENETRATION BUT IS UNSURE OF THE DEGREE AT HIGH LEVELS. TO THE EXTENT THERE IS PENETRATION, WE EXPECT HIM TO CLEAN HOUSE SWIFTLY.
MCNAMARA

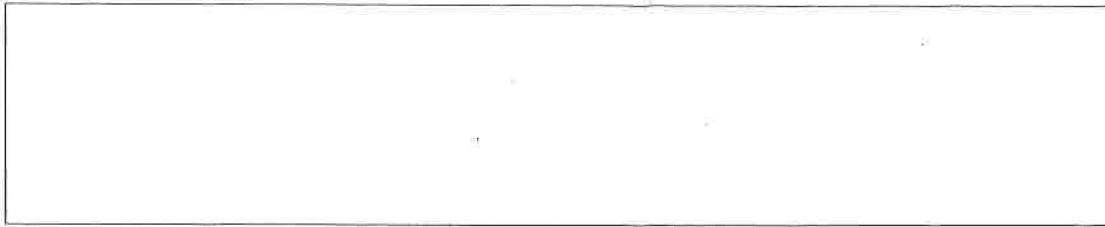
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