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TITLE: SUBJECT: INDEX/ANALYSIS ON MAJOR VIOLENCE: DECEMBER 1-15
(89-21)

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SUBJECT: INDEX/ANALYSIS ON MAJOR VIOLENCE: DECEMBER 1-15
(89-21)

REF: BOGOTA 18762

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: IN THE REPORTING PERIOD NARCOS RAISED THE TERROR THRESHOLD BY DETONATING A ONE-TON BOMB IN BOGOTA, BUT THE GOC EXACTED A MEASURE OF RETRIBUTION BY KILLING MEDELLIN KINGPIN GONZALO RODRIGUEZ GACHA A WEEK LATER. THE IN-FLIGHT EXPLOSION NOVEMBER 27 OF AN AVIANCA AIRLINER STILL PUZZLES AUTHORITIES, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF NARCO SABOTAGE IS STILL BEING CONSIDERED. MEANWHILE, THE ELN GUERRILLAS THREATENED TO ENGAGE IN GREATER VIOLENT ACTIVITY IN THE NORTH AND ANNOUNCED A SABOTAGE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE 1990 ELECTIONS. THE ARMED FORCES' OPERATION JUPITER LOST ITS REMAINING IMPETUS AS THE SECURITY FORCES PREPARED TO PROTECT CAMPAIGNING POLITICIANS AND THE ELECTION PROCESS IN GENERAL. KILLINGS OF POLICEMEN AND ABDUCTION BY NARCOS OF EXECUTIVES OF GOC FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS HAVE INCREASED IN MEDELLIN THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

I. NARCO-RELATED VIOLENCE

DAS BOMB RAISES NARCOS' THRESHOLD OF VIOLENCE

3. THE BOMB THAT VIRTUALLY DESTROYED THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY (DAS) HEADQUARTERS IN BOGOTA DECEMBER 6 WAS ESTIMATED TO HAVE CONTAINED UP TO ONE TON OF EXPLOSIVES. IT WAS THE LARGEST EVER DETONATED IN COLOMBIA AND INDICATED AN INCREASED WILLINGNESS BY THE NARCOS TO KILL INNOCENT BYSTANDERS IN AN EFFORT TO DESTROY A SPECIFIC TARGET, IN THIS CASE DAS DIRECTOR GENERAL MIGUEL MAZA MARQUEZ (SEE BOGOTA 18869, 18902,

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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18949 AND 19116). (LAST MAY, MAZA SURVIVED THE EXPLOSION OF A CAR BOMB PRE-POSITIONED ON HIS MORNING ROUTE TO WORK.) THE DEAD AND INJURED FROM THE DEC 6.BOMBING MORE THAN DOUBLED THE TOTAL DEAD AND INJURED FROM THE OTHER APPROXIMATELY 200 NARCO BOMBINGS IN COLOMBIA FROM AUGUST 18 TO DECEMBER 6. (THE 107 KILLED IN THE NOVEMBER 27 AVIANCA IN-FLIGHT BOMBING CAN NOT YET DEFINITELY BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE NARCOS, SEE PARA. 5 BELOW).

RODRIGUEZ GACHA REACHES THE END OF A BLOODY TRAIL

4. THE DAS BOMBING EXEMPLIFIED NARCO "OVERKILL", UNDERSCORED THE IRRATIONALITY OF NARCO TERRORISM, AND OUTRAGED THE NATION. SOME SAY THAT IT, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, STIFFENED THE RESOLVE OF THE POLICE TO BRING DOWN THE NARCO CAPOS. MEDELLIN NARCO GONZALO RODRIGUEZ GACHA WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE PERSONALLY PLANNED THE DAS BOMBING, ALONG WITH MOST TERRORIST ACTS AND ASSASSINATIONS COMMITTED BY THE CARTEL IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS. ON DECEMBER 15, UNITS OF THE ELITE CORPS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE AND OTHER SECURITY FORCES CAUGHT UP WITH RODRIGUEZ GACHA. SECURITY FORCES, WHICH CAME CLOSE TO CAPTURING PABLO ESCOBAR A FEW WEEKS AGO, MANAGED TO CLOSE THE RING THIS TIME, KILLING RODRIGUEZ GACHA AND HIS COMPANIONS, APPARENTLY WITHOUT A SERIOUS EFFORT TO ARREST HIM. THE OPERATION DISPLAYED EXCELLENT COORDINATION OF AIR (ARMED HELICOPTERS) AND GROUND TROOP ACTION, COASTAL PATROLLING, AND MILITARY APPLICATION OF GATHERED INTELLIGENCE. RODRIGUEZ GACHA'S DEATH IS THE GOC'S BIGGEST COUP THUS FAR IN ITS FOUR-MONTH OLD OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE CARTELS. IT HAS ENHANCED ENORMOUSLY PUBLIC MORALE AND GAVE PRESIDENT BARCO THE KIND OF VICTORY AGAINST THE NARCOS THAT HE SORELY NEEDED.

BOGOTA POLICE RAID SAFEHOUSES, SEIZE DYNAMITE

5. ON THE SAME DAY RODRIGUEZ GACHA WAS KILLED, POLICE STAGED SEVERAL RAIDS ON NARCO "SAFE HOUSES" IN BOGOTA PRESUMED TO BELONG TO THE SLAIN CAPO'S NETWORK. ALSO,
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TAGS: PTER, PINS, MOPS, SNAR, KJUS, PHUM, EPET, PGOV, CO
SUBJECT: INDEX/ANALYSIS ON MAJOR VIOLENCE: DECEMBER 1-15
THE METROPOLITAN POLICE CONTINUED EFFORTS TO UNCOVER
BOMBING PLOTS AND SEIZE DYNAMITE IN BOGOTA. POLICE
UNITS CAPTURED A SMALL TRUCK CARRYING TWELVE DYNAMITE
STICKS IN DOWNTOWN BOGOTA DECEMBER 13. POLICE UNCOVERED
NO/NO INDICATION THAT TERRORISTS WERE PLANNING TO
DETONATE THIS VEHICLE IN FRONT OF CONGRESS, LOCAL PRESS
REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY.

INVESTIGATION ON AVIANCA BOMB CONTINUES

6. OFFICIAL EFFORTS CONTINUE TO IDENTIFY THE MOTIVE
BEHIND THE NOVEMBER 27 AVIANCA IN-FLIGHT EXPLOSION,
WHICH KILLED 107 PASSENGERS AND CREW MEMBERS. AT A
DECEMBER 5 PRESS CONFERENCE, THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL
AVIATION OFFICIALLY INFORMED THE PUBLIC THAT THE
INVESTIGATIVE TEAM HAD FOUND CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT
THE AVIANCA HK-1803 CRASH WAS CAUSED BY AN EXPLOSIVE
DEVICE (SEE BOGOTA 18891). THERE REMAINS DOUBT,
HOWEVER, REGARDING THE AUTHORSHIP AND MOTIVE OF THE
BOMBING. INVESTIGATION HAS ESTABLISHED THAT THE PLANE
WAS DESTROYED BY THE SECONDARY EXPLOSION OF THE FUEL
TANKS.(SEE BOGOTA 19564 FOR REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION.)

KILLING OF JUDGES CONTINUES

7. NARCOTERRORISTS KILLED TWO MORE TOP MEMBERS OF THE
MEDELLIN JUDICIARY IN DECEMBER, BRINGING THE YEAR'S
TOTAL OF MURDERED JURISTS IN THAT CITY TO FIVE. BOTH
JUDGE BERNARDO JARAMILLO URIBE, MURDERED DECEMBER 6
(BOGOTA 18903) AND PROSECUTING ATTORNEY GABRIEL VELEZ,
KILLED DECEMBER 12 (BOGOTA 19276) WERE INVOLVED IN THE
INVESTIGATIONS OF MAJOR NARCO-RELATED CASES, INCLUDING
THE ASSASSINATION OF ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT POLICE
COMMANDER WALDERMAR QUINTERO AND OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

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CARLOS MAURO HOYOS. NEITHER SLAIN JURIST APPEARED ON THE LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY DESIGNATED TO RECEIVED PROTECTION.

II. ARMY-GUERRILLA VIOLENCE

OPERATION JUPITER REPORTEDLY IN CLOSING STAGES

8. THE PROGRESSIVE ASSIGNMENT OF GUERRILLA-FIGHTING TROOPS TO ANTI-NARCO AND POLITICAL PROTECTION DUTIES, ALONG WITH LACK OF FUEL, FURTHER DIMINISHED THE IMPACT OF OPERATION JUPITER IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS (SEE BOGOTA 19110 FOR REVELATIONS BY COMMANDER OF THE ARMY (GEN.) ARMANDO ARIAS CABRALES). THE OPERATION, HOWEVER, SUCCEEDED IN REDUCING THE NUMBER OF SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES ON THE OIL PIPELINE BY THE ELN AND KEPT THAT GUERRILLA GROUP ON THE DEFENSIVE SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE OPERATION LAST JUNE. ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO END DECEMBER 10, OPERATION JUPITER HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO THE END OF THE YEAR, BUT WITH ITS CAPABILITY AND MANPOWER REDUCED EVEN FURTHER.

ELN SABOTAGE CAMPAIGN RESUMES

9. IN THE REPORTING PERIOD, THE ELN INCREASED ITS ACTIVITIES AS OPERATION JUPITER WANED (SEE SEQUENCE OF ELN ACTIVITIES IN BOGOTA 19170). MOREOVER, THE GROUP HAS BRASHLY SERVED NOTICE TO THE ARMED FORCES THAT IT INTENDS TO RESUME SABOTAGE ATTACKS ON THE CANO LIMON-COVENAS OIL PIPELINE. ACCORDING TO GENERAL ARIAS CABRALES, THE ELN ALSO PLANS TO BEGIN SABOTAGE OPERATION AGAINST THE GIANT, OPEN-PIT CERREJON COAL MINING OPERATION ON THE ATLANTIC COAST AND AGAINST THE VALLEDUPAR MINES IN CESAR DEPARTMENT IN THE NORTH.

ELN MASSACRES CAMPESINOS IN THE NORTH

10. THE ELN SEEMS TO HAVE REPLACED THE FARC AS THE GUERRILLA GROUP MOST GIVEN TO MASSACRING RURAL RESIDENTS HARBORING SYMPATHY FOR THE ARMED FORCES. THE ELN

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COMMITTED ITS MOST RECENT ATROCITY IN THE RURAL
MUNICIPALITY OF GIRON, SANTANDER DEPARTMENT IN THE

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NORTH, ON DECEMBER 14. AN ELN UNIT INVADED A LOCAL FARM
AND ABDUCTED TWO CAMPESINOS AND THEIR TWO RESPECTIVE
TEENAGED SONS. THE FOUR WERE LATER FOUND HACKED TO
DEATH BY MACHETES IN A WOODED AREA NEAR THEIR FARM. IN
CORDOBA DEPARTMENT, AN ELN COLUMN INVADED A LOCAL FARM
IN VALENCIA MUNICIPALITY AND ABDUCTED FOUR OTHER
CAMPESINOS. ALTHOUGH NO BODIES HAVE BEEN FOUND, THE
FOUR ARE BELIEVED TO BE DEAD. AUTHORITIES SUSPECT THAT
THE ELN COLUMN WAS ALSO ENGAGED IN A "PUNITIVE" MISSION
AGAINST ARMY SYMPATHIZERS.

POLICE CAPTURE 16 SUBVERSIVES IN NORTH

11. THE NATIONAL POLICE CONTINUED CAPTURING GUERRILLA
GROUPS IN THE REPORTING PERIOD (SEE REFTTEL FOR
BACKGROUND). NATIONAL POLICE UNITS CAPTURED A TOTAL OF
SIXTEEN ELN SUBVERSIVES IN TWO SEPARATE ACTIONS IN
DECEMBER 11 IN THE NORTHERN DEPARTMENTS OF CESAR AND
SANTANDER (SEE BOGOTA 19194). THE CAPTURE HIGHLIGHTED
AN INCREASE IN ACTIVITIES BY THE ELN UNITS IN THOSE
AREAS, AS MOST OF THE CAPTURED HAD PARTICIPATED, OR WERE
ABOUT TO PARTICIPATE, IN MAJOR SABOTAGE OPERATIONS
AGAINST PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OR IN CIVIC STRIKES TO
PARALYZE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS.

III. OTHER MAJOR VIOLENCE

COP-KILLING AND ABDUCTIONS AT ALL-TIME HIGH IN MEDELLIN

12. VIOLENCE IN MEDELLIN CONTINUED AT VERY HIGH LEVEL

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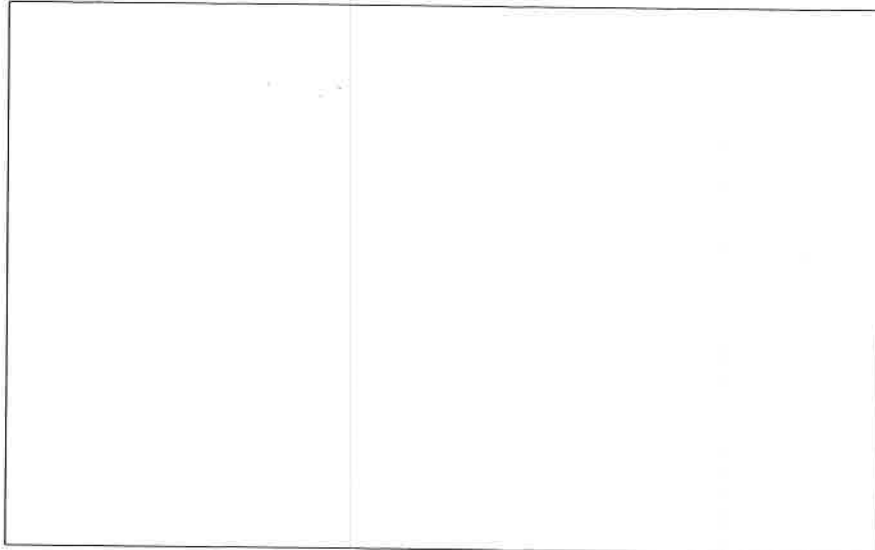
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DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. THE NATIONAL POLICE INFORMED THE PRESS THAT 88 POLICEMEN HAVE BEEN KILLED IN ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT SO FAR THIS YEAR. MOST SLAIN POLICEMEN WERE KILLED IN THE MEDELLIN AREA BY EITHER COMMON CRIMINALS OR SUBVERSIVES. KIDNAPPINGS FOR RANSOM REACHED UNPRECEDENTED PROPORTIONS THIS YEAR IN ANTIOQUIA, WITH A PARTICULARLY HEAVY CROP OF ABDUCTIONS OCCURRING IN THIS REPORTING PERIOD. AUTHORITIES SPECULATE THAT MANY OF THE RECENT ABDUCTIONS ARE PART OF A NARCO PLAN TO TERRORIZE EMPLOYEES OF THE GOV'S FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. MANY EXECUTIVES OF PUBLIC CORPORATIONS HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED IN MEDELLIN IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

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END OF MESSAGE

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