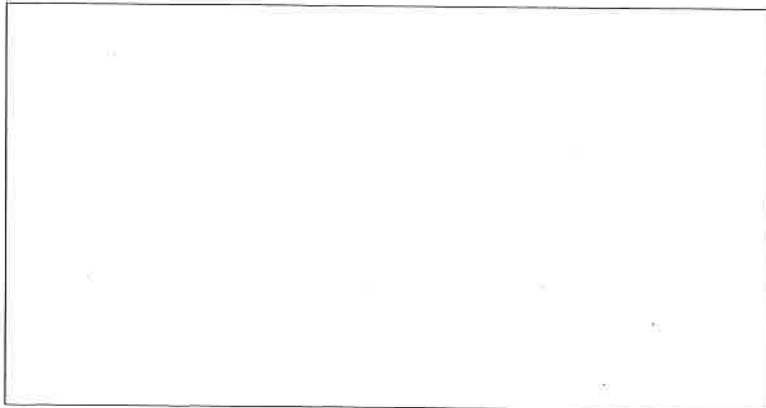


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SOURCE: STATE
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TAGS: SNAR, PTER, CO, UK
SUBJECT: BRITISH MERCENARIES IN COLOMBIA

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA
PERS/ORG, B1, B7(d), B7(e),
25X1, 25X6

REF: (A) STATE 274497, (B) LONDON 17364 (NOTAL)



25X1
25X6
B1
B7(D)
B7(E)

2. (U) THE STORY OF BRITISH MERCENARY INVOLVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF VARIOUS NARCOTICS CARTELS FIRST BROKE IN A LONDON "TIMES" ARTICLE ON AUGUST 13 REPORTING A PLOT TO KILL MEDELLIN CARTEL KINGPIN PABLO ESCOBAR. COVERAGE INTENSIFIED WHEN NEWS OF THE COLOMBIAN CRACKDOWN REACHED HERE LAST WEEK. THE OPPOSITION LABOR PARTY HAS CALLED FOR A GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO THE MATTER, WITH ONE LABOR MP STATING THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONFISCATE THE PASSPORTS OF THE MERCENARIES.

3. (U) FCO PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY TIMOTHY SAINSBURY RESPONDED TO THESE REPORTS IN A STATEMENT TO THE MEDIA ON AUGUST 24 (REF B). SAINSBURY DEPLORED THE INVOLVEMENT OF MERCENARIES IN COLOMBIAN AFFAIRS. HE SAID HMG HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA AND AGREED THAT ANY MERCENARIES APPREHENDED IN COLOMBIA WOULD BE TRIED UNDER COLOMBIAN LAW. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE UK HAD NO LEGISLATION TO DEAL WITH THE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

SECRET

Classification Extended on : 08/06/2014 ~ Class: SECRET ~ Reason: 25X1, 25X6

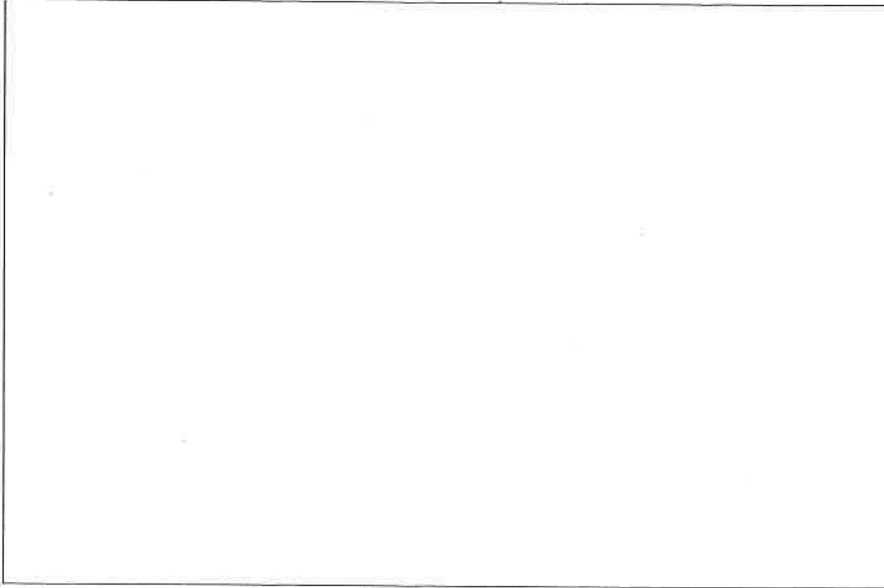
SECRET

ACTIONS OF BRITISH MERCENARIES IN A THIRD COUNTRY. HE
ALSO STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TO
HELP COLOMBIA IN ITS CRUSADE AGAINST DRUGS.
WOODS

END OF MESSAGE

SECRET

B3 CIA PERS/ORG



89 3915711 SSO PAGE 001 NC 3915711
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