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TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORTS CONCERNING ISRAEL INVOLVEMENT
- IN COLOMBIA

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TEXT:

TAGS: SNAR, PREL, IS, CO

SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORTS CONCERNING ISRAEL INVOLVEMENT
- IN COLOMBIA

RELEASED IN PART 25X1,B1,25X6,B3 CIA
PERS/ORG

REFS: (A) STATE 274497; (B) TEL AVIV 12205; (C) TEL
AVIV 12253

1. SUMMARY. THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF RETIRED
ISRAELI MILITARY OFFICERS IN TRAINING PARAMILITARY
FORCES OF COLOMBIAN DRUG DEALERS HAS BECOME A MAJOR
FOCUS OF PUBLIC ATTENTION IN ISRAEL. A PREVIOUSLY
SCHEDULED APPEARANCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AT AN
AUGUST 28 KNESSET COMMITTEE HEARING ON LEBANON WAS
DEVOTED IN LARGE PART TO THE COLOMBIAN AFFAIR. THE
PRIME MINISTER WARNED THE MEDIA THAT ITS REPORTS
COULD BESMIRCH THE NAMES OF RETIRED ISRAELI OFFICERS
WHO HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY WELL.

[REDACTED]

25X6
B1

[REDACTED] THE GOVERNMENT IS
TAKING THE POSITION THAT IT HAS LITTLE HARD
INFORMATION ABOUT THE MATTER WHICH AT THIS STAGE IS
UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE POLICE. EMBASSY IS FAXING
TO NEA/IAI AN MFA STATEMENT ON THE AFFAIR. END
SUMMARY.

2. THE COLOMBIAN AFFAIR IS THE MEDIA TOPIC OF THE
MOMENT, FORCING A RELUCTANT GOVERNMENT ALSO TO FOCUS
ON THE ISSUE.

[REDACTED]

25X1
B1

[REDACTED] MAINTAINING THAT THE ISSUE IS
NOW UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE NATIONAL POLICE AND
REFUSING COMMENT ON THAT BASIS. LATE AUGUST 28, MFA

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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Classification Extended on : 08/07/2014 ~ Class:
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PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH A FORMAL GOVERNMENT STATEMENT (FAXED TO NEA/IAI) OUTLINING THE TYPES OF GOVERNMENT CONTROLS OVER THE EXPORT OF DEFENSE EXPERTISE AND EXPRESSING GOI SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO CONTROL DRUG TRAFFICKING.

3. PRIME MINISTER SHAMIR APPEARED AUGUST 28 AT A MEETING OF THE KNESSET'S FOREIGN AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE, OSTENSIBLY TO DISCUSS THE LEBANON CRISIS. COMMITTEE MEMBERS, HOWEVER, INSISTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO ADDRESS THE COLOMBIAN ISSUE. ON LEAVING THE HEARING, SHAMIR TOLD REPORTERS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO REAL EVIDENCE THAT ISRAELIS DID ANYTHING TO SHAME THE COUNTRY HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS NOT SUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE COULD HURT INNOCENT PEOPLE. IT IS LIKELY THAT AT LEAST ONE OTHER KNESSET COMMITTEE WILL ADDRESS THE COLOMBIAN ISSUE BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK.

MEDIA COVERAGE

4. THE MEDIA AUGUST 27 AND 28 CONTINUED TO GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF ISRAELIS IN COLOMBIA, FOCUSING IN PARTICULAR ON THE ACTIVITIES OF "SPEARHEAD" (HEBREW: "HOD HAHANIT") AND ITS DIRECTOR, YAIR KLEIN, WHOSE VOICE WAS HEARD ON THE VIDEO CLIP BROADCAST BY NBC. THE ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS STATEMENTS BY THE PRINCIPALS, ANALYSIS OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF ISRAELI INVOLVEMENT, EVIDENCE OF FURTHER ISRAELI INVOLVEMENT, AND DATA ON ISRAELI WEAPONS SALES TO COLOMBIA.

THE ACCUSED'S ACCOUNT:

5. KLEIN HAS MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT SEVERAL INTERVIEWS THAT HE WAS EMPLOYED TO TRAIN "AN ORGANIZATION OF FARMERS IN COLOMBIA, FOUNDED TO

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DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY AGAINST AN ORGANIZATION CALLING ITSELF '19,' WHICH EXISTS TO TURN COLOMBIA INTO ANOTHER CUBA OR NICARAGUA." THIS ACCOUNT WAS SUPPORTED BY LT. COL. (RES.) YITZHAQ SHOSHANI-MARIOTT AND LT. COL. (RES.) AMATZIA SHUALI. SHOSHANI-MARIOTT IS DESCRIBED AS THE PERSON U.S. AND COLOMBIAN INTELLIGENCE ELEMENTS CONSIDER TO BE THE "BRAIN" BEHIND THE ISRAELI INVOLVEMENT.

THE LEGAL ARGUMENTS

6. WHILE THE MEDIA UNANIMOUSLY DEPLORES THE POSSIBLE
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 TEL AVIV 12391

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SNAR, PREL, IS, CO
SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORTS CONCERNING ISRAEL INVOLVEMENT

INVOLVEMENT OF ISRAELI CITIZENS WITH DRUG CARTELS, THE PUBLIC DEBATE FOCUSES ON THE MERCENARY QUALITY OF ISRAELIS WHO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE ABROAD WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORIZATION OF THE SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT.

7. ACCORDING TO THE 1986 AMENDMENT OF THE DEFENSE SERVICE REGULATIONS, NO RESERVIST MAY EXPORT SECURITY EXPERTISE - THROUGH "SUPPLY OF INFORMATION, INSTRUCTION, TRAINING OR IN ANY OTHER MANNER" WITHOUT AN EXPORT PERMIT FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY IS REPORTED TO HAVE WARNED KLEIN IN MAY 1989, THAT HE WAS ENGAGED IN UNAUTHORIZED AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN COLOMBIA. KLEIN HAS CLAIMED THAT SINCE HE WAS TRAINING CIVILIANS, HE DID NOT NEED A DEFENSE MINISTRY PERMIT.

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OTHER ISRAELIS

8. ONE NEWSPAPER, CITING U.S. SOURCES, CLAIMS THAT THREE ISRAELIS TOOK PART IN A PLOT TO MURDER PABLO ESCOBAR, THE HEAD OF THE MEDELLIN DRUG CARTEL. TWO OF THE ISRAELIS, YOSI CONDIOTTI AND A SECOND ONE IDENTIFIED SIMPLY AS GIL, WERE ARRESTED IN JUNE NEAR MIAMI. THE THIRD, WHO IS UNNAMED, IS ALLEGED TO BE A SENIOR ISRAELI PARATROOP OFFICER WHO SPECIALIZED IN COMBATting TERROR.

MILITARY SALES

9. OTHER REPORTS CONCERN ISREX, A SUBSIDIARY OF THE LARGE KLAL CONCERN, WHICH HAS SOLD COLOMBIA SEVENTY MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. SENIOR KLAL OFFICIALS ARE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "ISREX SOLD MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO COLOMBIA AS AN AGENT FOR THE FIRMS OF RAFAEL, ELBIT, TADIRAN, MILITARY INDUSTRIES AND OTHERS. THE COMPANY DID NOT RECRUIT ARMS INSTRUCTORS." INSTRUCTORS WERE, HOWEVER, HIRED THROUGH AN AGENT FROM AMSTERDAM. KLAL DENIES LINKS WITH NOREIGA BODYGUARD MIKE HARARI AND ARMS AGENTS MARCUS KATZ AND PESAH BEN-OR. HOWEVER, THE PRESS REPORTS THAT KATZ AND BEN-OR HAVE WON AGENT'S FEES FROM ISREX. YITZHAK SHOSHANI-MARIOTT WORKED FOR ISREX UNTIL 1982.

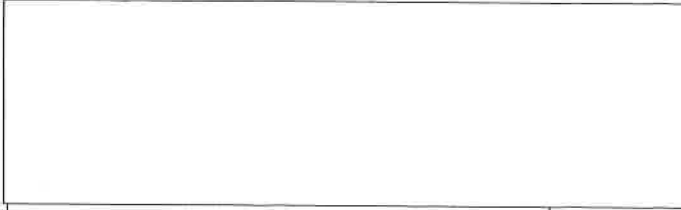
COMMENT

10. 


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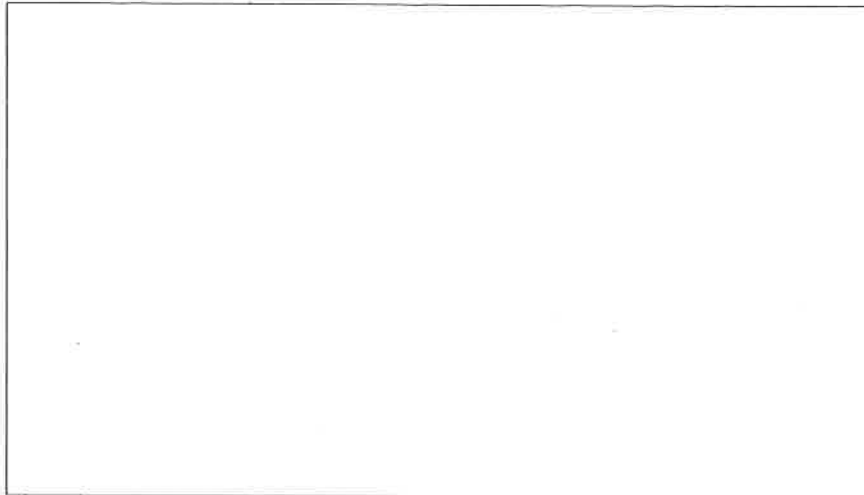


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THE
POTENTIAL FOR A MAJOR SCANDAL HERE IS SERIOUS, WITH
IMPLICATIONS GOING WELL BEYOND TODAY'S HEADLINES.
BROWN

END OF MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL

B3 CIA PERS/ORG



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