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38405958

TITLE: SUBJECT: HMG ON COLOMBIAN NARCOTICS FUGITIVES

ORIGDATE: 198908241807

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: LONDON 17364

TEXT:

TAGS: SNAR, CO, UK

SUBJECT: HMG ON COLOMBIAN NARCOTICS FUGITIVES

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA  
PERS/ORGREF: (A) STATE 270987, (B) LONDON 17302,  
(C) BOGOTA 12405

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. CHARGE MADE REF A POINTS ON ASSISTANCE IN APPREHENDING COLOMBIAN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS TO FCO PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY TIMOTHY SAINSBURY ON AUGUST 24. HE ALSO USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE PROMPT HMG STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR COLOMBIAN EFFORTS (REF B).

3. SAINSBURY, WHOSE FCO MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE THE NARCOTICS PORTFOLIO, PROMISED TO PASS THE INFORMATION ON THE TRAFFICKERS TO THE RELEVANT UK ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. HE SAID HE KNEW OF NO EVIDENCE TO DATE THAT ANY OF THE TWELVE MEN HAD PLANS TO COME TO, OR PASS THROUGH, THE UNITED KINGDOM. HE ASKED THAT WE SUPPLY ANY INFORMATION ON THEIR POSSIBLE MOVEMENTS AND PROMISED FULL HMG SUPPORT FOR OUR EFFORTS.

4. NOTE: SAINSBURY HAD MADE A STATEMENT TO THE MEDIA EARLIER IN THE AFTERNOON ON REPORTS OF BRITISH MERCENARY INVOLVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF VARIOUS NARCOTICS CARTELS IN COLOMBIA. THE STORY FIRST BROKE IN A LONDON "TIMES" ARTICLE ON AUGUST 13 REPORTING A PLOT TO KILL MEDELLIN CARTEL KINGPIN PABLO ESCOBAR (REF C). MEDIA ATTENTION TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT BRITISH MERCENARIES WERE INVOLVED IN COLOMBIA HAS INTENSIFIED FOLLOWING REPORTS OF THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS THIS WEEK. IN SAINSBURY'S STATEMENT TO THE MEDIA, HE DEPLORED ANY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior  
Reviewer

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1

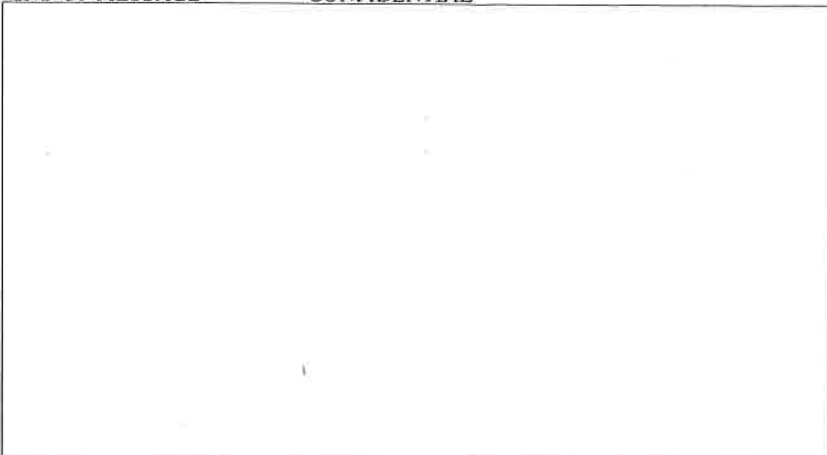
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EXTRA-LEGAL INVOLVEMENT IN COLOMBIAN AFFAIRS AND SAID THERE WAS NO BASIS TO REPORTS OF HMG SUPPORT FOR MERCENARIES IN COLOMBIA. HE SAID HMG HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA AND AGREED THAT ANY MERCENARIES APPREHENDED IN COLOMBIA WOULD BE TRIED UNDER COLOMBIAN LAW. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE UK HAD NO LEGISLATION TO DEAL WITH THE ACTIONS OF BRITISH MERCENARIES IN A THIRD COUNTRY. SAINSBURY ALSO EXPRESSED HMG'S FULL SUPPORT FOR THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT AND ANNOUNCED THAT CHALKER'S LETTER TO THAT EFFECT HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO FOREIGN MINISTER LONDONO.

WOODS

END OF MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL

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TOR: 242014Z AUG 89 LONDON 17364

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DECLASSON: MR  
DOCPREC: O  
DOCST: ACTIVE  
DOCTYPE: IN  
DOCUMENT\_ID: 38405958  
DOR: 19890824  
FROM: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

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GUIDE-UID: 1012/1f89tt  
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INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 2476  
BT

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ORIGIN:  
PRODUCER: LONDON  
RECEIPT DATE: 89 387022319890824161436  
SOURCE-INFO: STATE IN O LONDON 17364 LONDON 198908241807  
TAGS: TAGS: SNAR, CO, UK  
TO: TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2188  
TOR: 161436  
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3