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TITLE: SUBJECT: PROCURADURIA LEVIES SANCTIONS AGAINST POLICE IN
DIANA TURBAY KILLING

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TEXT:

TAGS: PHUM, PINS, SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: PROCURADURIA LEVIES SANCTIONS AGAINST POLICE IN
DIANA TURBAY KILLING

RELEASED IN PART FOIA B3 CIA
PERS/ORG

REF: A) 91 BOGOTA 1302 B) 91 BOGOTA 8114

1. (U) THE PROCURADURIA (COLOMBIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS WATCHDOG) HAS SANCTIONED FOUR OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE (CNP) IN CONNECTION WITH THE JANUARY 24, 1991 RAID WHICH KILLED DIANA TURBAY. TURBAY, DAUGHTER OF A FORMER PRESIDENT, WAS KIDNAPPED BY THE MEDELLIN DRUG CARTEL. MEDELLIN BASED ELITE CORPS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE RAIDED A FARM, OWNED BY PABLO ESCOBAR, WHERE TURBAY AND ANOTHER PERSON WERE BEING HELD. AFTER THE RESULTING GUNFIGHT, TURBAY AND THREE OF THE KIDNAPPERS WERE FOUND DEAD (REFTEL A).

2. (U) IN MAY, THE PROCURADURIA FILED CHARGES AGAINST FIVE MEMBERS OF THE CNP FOR ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN THE RAID (REFTEL B). TODAY, THE PROCURADURIA ANNOUNCED THE DISMISSAL FROM SERVICE (ITS HIGHEST SANCTION) OF COLONEL LINO PINZON NARANGO AND CAPTAIN HELMER EZEQUIEL TORRES VELA AND 30 DAY SUSPENSIONS FOR MAJOR HUGO HELIODORO AGUILAR NARANJO AND LT. IVAN DIAZ ALVAREZ. LT. JORGE URIAL CARO MURCIA WAS EXONERATED OF ANY WRONGDOING IN THE RAID.

3. (U) THE FIVE HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF CAPTURING AND TORTURING THREE PERSONS THEY BELIEVED WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ABDUCTION, FORCING THEM TO NAME WHERE TURBAY WAS BEING HELD. ADDITIONALLY, THE FIVE WERE ACCUSED OF NOT INFORMING THEIR SUPERIORS OF THAT LOCATION AND OF COVERING UP THEIR ACTIONS AFTERWARD.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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1

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4. (U) COLONEL PINZON WAS DISMISSED FROM SERVICE FOR WITHHOLDING TURBAY'S LOCATION FROM HIS SUPERIORS AND FOR ORDERING THE SUBSEQUENT RAID. CAPTAIN TORRES WAS DISMISSED FOR "THE MISUSE OF WEAPONS, WHICH RESULTED IN THE UNJUSTIFIABLE DEATH OF JOSE DOMINGO CORREA ECHEVERRY." CORREA AND GERMAN EDUARDO GIRALDO AUGUDELO WERE FOUND DEAD AT THE FARM WHERE THE RAID TOOK PLACE. THE PROCURADURIA REPORT STATES THAT THE TWO WERE TORTURED AND KILLED AND THEIR BODIES WERE TAKEN TO THE FARM TO MAKE IT APPEAR THEY WERE KILLED THERE. CORREA APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A LOCAL RESIDENT THE POLICE MISTOOK FOR ONE OF TURBAY'S CAPTORS (REFTEL B).

5. (U) MAJOR AGUILAR WAS SUSPENDED FOR WITHHOLDING INFORMATION AND MAKING FALSE REPORTS ABOUT THE INCIDENT. LT. DIAZ WAS SUSPENDED FOR NOT REPORTING THE DETENTION OF JOSE HUMBERTO VASQUEZ, ONE OF "THE EXTRADITABLES," WHOSE BODY WAS DISCOVERED TWO DAYS AFTER HE HAD BEEN DETAINED BY POLICE. LT. CARO WAS FOUND NOT GUILTY OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEATH OF GIRALDO.

6. (C) COMMENT: THAT THESE SANCTIONS WERE LEVIED IS YET ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE GAVIRIA ADMINISTRATION AND ITS WATCHDOG ARM, THE PROCURADURIA, TO END TO EXTRALEGAL ACTIONS AND ABUSES. IN MANY CIRCLES THESE MEN WERE VIEWED AS HEROES WHO TOOK THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS ONLY BECAUSE THEY HAD NO CONFIDENCE IN COLOMBIA'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM. FURTHERMORE, IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THE POLITICAL PRICE AND DAMAGE TO POLICE MORALE WOULD PROHIBIT ANYTHING MORE THAN A CURSORY INVESTIGATION. THE FACT THAT THE PROCURADURIA HAS LEVIED ITS STRONGEST SANCTIONS IN SUCH AN UNPOPULAR CASE GIVES IT MORE CREDIBILITY AS AN IMPARTIAL HUMAN RIGHTS ENFORCER. WHAT EFFECT THIS DECISION WILL HAVE ON THE CNP REMAINS TO BE SEEN. HOBBS

END OF MESSAGE

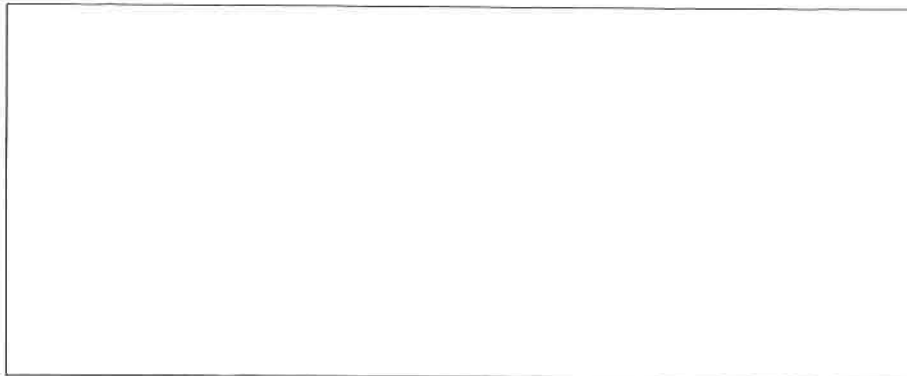
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4