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TITLE: SUBJECT: ASSASSIN OF UP LEADER JARAMILLO KILLED WHILE
ON CHRISTMAS LIBERTY FROM PRISON SCHOOL

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TEXT:

TAGS: SNAR, CO, PINR

SUBJECT: ASSASSIN OF UP LEADER JARAMILLO KILLED WHILE
ON CHRISTMAS LIBERTY FROM PRISON SCHOOL

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1. (U) ANDRES GUTIERREZ MAYA, THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN IN THE MARCH 1990 MURDER OF PATRIOTIC UNION (UP) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE BERNARDO JARAMILLO, WAS HIMSELF MURDERED JANUARY 2 BY UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN IN MEDELLIN. GUTIERREZ, 16 YEARS OLD, WAS KILLED WHILE BENEFITTING FROM A CHRISTMAS-RELEASE PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE BELLO (ANTIOQUIA) REFORM SCHOOL TO WHICH HE HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED NOVEMBER 22 FROM BOGOTA'S MAXIMUM SECURITY LA PICOTA PRISON. GUTIERREZ' FATHER, FABIO DE JESUS, WAS ALSO KILLED IN THE ATTACK.

2. (U) SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEATH, GUTIERREZ HAD SWORN OUT A COMPLAINT AGAINST FORMER DAS (ROUGH FBI EQUIVALENT) CHIEF MIGUEL MAZA MARQUEZ ALLEGING THAT MAZA VISITED HIM IN LA PICOTA AND PRESSURED HIM TO TIE PABLO ESCOBAR TO THE JARAMILLO KILLING. IN AN OPEN LETTER TO BOGOTA NEWSPAPERS, MAZA CALLED GUTIERREZ' ACCUSATION "ANOTHER WORK OF NARCOTRAFFICKERS" AND DENIED THAT HE EVER VISITED THE YOUNG ASSASSIN IN PRISON.

3. (C) MEANWHILE, UP OFFICIALS HAVE DEMANDED THAT JUSTICE MINISTER FERNANDO CARRILLO EXPLAIN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF GUTIERREZ' TRANSFER TO MEDELLIN AND HIS ABILITY TO SPEND THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS WITH HIS FAMILY. IVAN BENJUMEA, A FOUNDER OF THE UP'S PERESTROIKIST OFFSHOOT, PODER DEMOCRATICO, TOLD POLOFF JANUARY 7 THAT "NARCOTRAFFICKERS" WERE UNQUESTIONABLY INVOLVED IN GUTIERREZ' (AND JARAMILLO'S) MURDER. HE ALSO QUESTIONED THE MOTIVES OF THE UP, WHICH IS NOW

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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CONTROLLED BY COMMUNIST PARTY HARDLINERS, FOR SUPPORTING JARAMILLO IN DEATH AFTER CRITICIZING HIM (AND HIS PERESTROIKA POLICIES) IN LIFE. DESPITE THE UP'S BLATANT USE OF JARAMILLO'S MEMORY FOR POLITICAL ADVANTAGE, HOWEVER, BENJUMEA SAID THE PODER DEMOCRATICO JOINS THE UP IN CALLING FOR A GOC EXPLANATION OF GUTIERREZ' TRANSFER AND RELEASE. ANOTHER VOICE DENOUNCING THE MURDER WAS THAT OF JARAMILLO'S WIDOW, MARIELA BARRAGAN, WHO WROTE IN AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT GAVIRIA THAT THE GUTIERREZ MURDER WAS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE WEAKNESS OF THE COLOMBIAN JUSTICE SYSTEM.

4. (U) IN A JANUARY 7 RESPONSE TO UP PRESIDENT AIDA ABELLA, CARRILLO SAID THAT THE TRANSFER AND RELEASE OF GUTIERREZ WAS A DECISION OF THE JUVENILE COURT, NOT THE JUSTICE MINISTRY.

5. (C) COMMENT: ALL INDICATIONS POINT TO ESCOBAR'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE GUTIERREZ MURDER (ALTHOUGH A PERSONAL DISPUTE OR VENDETTA CANNOT BE ABSOLUTELY DISCOUNTED). WITH TRIALS LOOMING UNDER TERMS OF GOC SURRENDER DECREES, ESCOBAR HAS BEEN ANXIOUS TO SILENCE POTENTIAL WITNESSES, ESPECIALLY IN CASES THAT CARRY MAXIMUM (30 YEARS) SENTENCES. DESPITE GUTIERREZ' WILLINGNESS TO FILE A DIVERSIONARY COMPLAINT AGAINST MAZA, ESCOBAR MAY HAVE QUESTIONED THE ABILITY OF A 16-YEAR-OLD TO WITHSTAND GOC PRESSURES TO TESTIFY.

6. (C) CARRILLO'S ATTEMPT TO SHIFT BLAME TO THE JUDGE IS NOT VERY SATISFYING. GUTIERREZ MAY HAVE REPRESENTED THE ONLY TRAIL TO THE INTELLECTUAL AUTHORS OF JARAMILLO'S ASSASSINATION AND HIS DEATH COULD MEAN THE END OF THE CASE. IN ADDITION, CARRILLO'S STATEMENT SKIRTS THE VERY SERIOUS QUESTION OF WHETHER THE JUVENILE JUDGE WAS IN ESCOBAR'S POCKET. THESE ISSUES ARE CENTRAL TO THE INTEGRITY OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND TO BUILDING A STRONG CASE AGAINST ESCOBAR, BOTH PRIME RESPONSIBILITIES OF CARRILLO AND HIS MINISTRY.

BUSBY

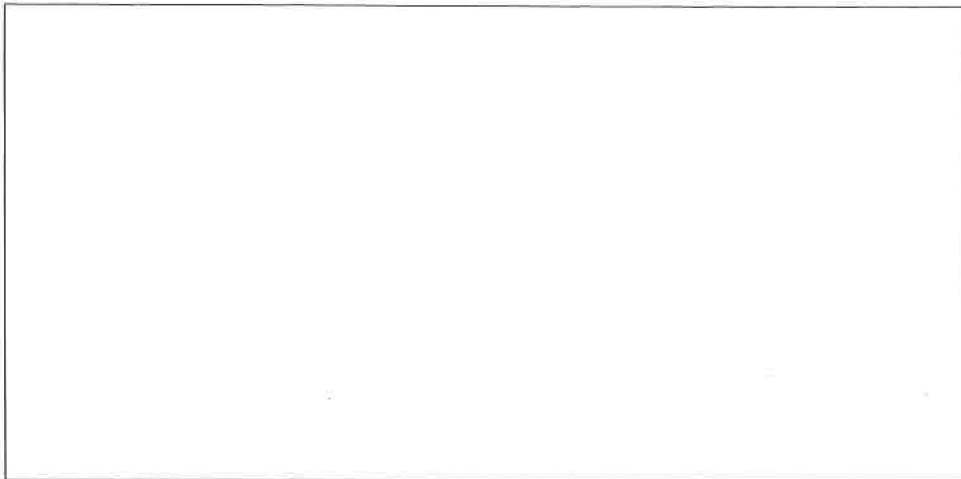
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