

SECRET

22925314

TITLE: SUBJECT: COMPOSITE THREAT LIST - COMMENTS ON TERRORISM

ORIGDATE: 199301111318

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 00408

TEXT:

TAGS: ASEC

COMBINE: COMPLETE

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

SUBJECT: COMPOSITE THREAT LIST - COMMENTS ON TERRORISM

REF: STATE 405910

1. RSO WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS SOME COMMENTS TOWARD THE COMPOSITE THREAT TERRORISM CATEGORY WHICH INCLUDES WAR, INSURGENCY AND CIVIL STRIFE.
2. THE LAST SIX MONTHS HAVE BROUGHT A MARKED INCREASE IN DISORDER WITHIN COLOMBIA AND DIRECT THREATS COMMUNICATED AGAINST U.S. MISSION PERSONNEL.

INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED IN AUGUST INDICATING THE ELN INTENDED TO RENEW ITS EFFORTS TO TARGET THE AMBASSADOR FOR ASSASSINATION. DOCUMENTS CONTAINING INFORMATION PERTAINING TO A MEMBER OF DAO WERE FOUND DURING A RAID OF A GUERRILLA FACILITY. THE INSURGENTS HAVE BROADENED THEIR TRADITIONALLY RURAL BATTLEGROUND TO INCLUDE ATTACKS AGAINST POLICE STATIONS, BANKS AND MULTINATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN BOGOTA AND OTHER COLOMBIAN CITIES.

SINCE THE ESCAPE FROM JAIL OF PABLO ESCOBAR, SURVEILLANCE HAS BEEN DETECTED AGAINST BOTH PERMANENT MISSION MEMBERS AND TDYERS. NUMEROUS DIRECT THREATS HAVE BEEN CONVEYED AGAINST MISSION MEMBERS BY NARCO TERRORISTS FROM BOTH MEDELLIN AND CALI.

THE INCREASE IN GUERRILLA AND NARCO TERRORISM HAS SURGED INTO TRADITIONALLY "SAFE" AREAS OF BOGOTA. DURING THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, DRIVEBY SHOOTINGS, ASSASSINATIONS AND KIDNAPPINGS AS WELL AS BURNING OF PUBLIC BUSES HAVE

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Adolph Eisner, Senior Reviewer**

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**Classification Extended on : 02/05/2015 ~ Class:  
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ALL OCCURRED WITHIN METERS OF APARTMENT BUILDINGS OCCUPIED BY MISSION MEMBERS. THESE ACTIVITIES COMBINED WITH THE BOMBING OF 4 LUXURY HOTELS IN BOGOTA IN DECEMBER HAS MARKEDLY INCREASED THE THREAT AGAINST EMBASSY PERSONNEL.

3. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF MAJOR TERRORISM CATEGORY EVENTS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN COLOMBIA DURING THE REVIEWING PERIOD JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1992.

JULY

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ON JULY 22, PABLO ESCOBAR ESCAPED FROM HIS PRISON OUTSIDE MEDELLIN. A GOC OFFICIAL, WHO WAS TAKEN HOSTAGE IN THE PRISON DURING THE ESCOBAR ESCAPE, OVERHEARD ONE OF ESCOBAR'S MEN STATE THAT THE EMBASSY WAS A TARGET FOR ATTACK BY ESCOBAR. IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS ESCAPE, THE "EXTRADITABLES" (A GROUP OF MEDELLIN NARCO TRAFFICKERS) ISSUED A TARGET LIST FOR REPRISALS SHOULD ESCOBAR BE CAPTURED OR HARMED. THE EMBASSY OCCUPIED A HIGH PLACE ON THE PRIORITY LIST.

IN LATE JULY, A COLOMBIAN APPROACHED THE MAID OF A MISSION MEMBER AND ASKED HER IF SHE HAD INFORMATION ABOUT AMERICANS WHO LIVED IN HER EMPLOYER'S BUILDING. THE FOLLOWING DAY, TWO COLOMBIANS APPROACHED A SECURITY WATCHMAN IN AN APARTMENT BUILDING OCCUPIED BY A MISSION MEMBER. THE MEN ASKED THE WATCHMAN IF ANY EMBASSY EMPLOYEES LIVED IN THE BUILDING. IN ADDITION, MISSION PERSONNEL HAVE REPORTED NUMEROUS INSTANCES OF POSSIBLE SURVEILLANCE AGAINST THEM OR THEIR APARTMENT BUILDINGS. THE TIMING OF THESE INCIDENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH RECENT THREATS AGAINST THE MISSION MAKES IT PROBABLE THAT NARCO ELEMENTS ARE MOUNTING INFORMATION COLLECTION EFFORTS AGAINST MISSION PERSONNEL.

FISCAL GENERAL GUSTAVO DE GRIEFF IS ONE OF THE MOST LIKELY TARGETS FOR A NARCO-TERRORIST ATTACK IN COLOMBIA. IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT HIS OFFICE IS

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UNDER SURVEILLANCE, AND THAT THE PROBABILITY THAT AN INCIDENT WILL OCCUR THERE IS HIGH. AT LEAST TWO EMBASSY OFFICERS VISIT DE GRIEFF REGULARLY, MEANING MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK, AND THE AMBASSADOR CALLS ON DE GRIEFF OCCASIONALLY.

THREE 50 POUND BOMBS WERE PURCHASED ILLEGALLY FROM THE [REDACTED] REPORTEDLY BY THE CALI CARTEL, FOR USE AGAINST ENEMY DRUG KINGPIN PABLO ESCOBAR. ONE OF THE BOMBS WAS INTERCEPTED EN ROUTE TO COLOMBIA, BUT TWO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY SMUGGLED INTO COLOMBIA. THEIR ACTUAL INTENDED USE IS UNKNOWN. INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED IN JULY REGARDING A NARCO PLAN TO KIDNAP EMBASSY EMPLOYEES IN MEDELLIN. IN FACT, TWO GROUPS OF MISSION MEMBERS HAD PLANNED TDY TRAVEL TO MEDELLIN ON THE DAYS THE KIDNAPPINGS WERE SUPPOSED TO TAKE PLACE. THEIR TDY TRAVEL WAS CANCELLED.

ALSO IN JULY, THE EMBASSY RECEIVED THREAT INFORMATION WHICH WARNED OF AN INTENT TO ASSASSINATE AN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN COUNTER-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES. THE INDIVIDUAL WAS NOT NAMED. HOWEVER, THE SOURCE DID PROVIDE THE ADDRESS OF AN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE, TO INCLUDE THE CORRECT FLOOR THAT THE APARTMENT WAS LOCATED ON. THE EMPLOYEE HAD TRANSFERRED FROM POST JUST PRIOR TO THE INFORMATION BEING RECEIVED. THE LEASE TO THAT PARTICULAR APARTMENT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TERMINATED.

INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED IN JUNE THAT THE ELN WAS PLANNING TO KIDNAP OR ASSASSINATE THE AMBASSADOR. AS A RESULT OF THIS INFORMATION, THE AMBASSADOR LEFT POST FOR TWO WEEKS. MORE INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED IN AUGUST, INDICATING THAT THE ELN INTENDED TO RENEW ITS EFFORTS TO TARGET THE AMBASSADOR FOR ASSASSINATION. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, AN INDIVIDUAL WAS SPOTTED VIDEO TAPING THE AMBASSADOR'S MOTORCADE WHILE ENROUTE FROM A PRESCHEDULED MEETING AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. AT THE POINT THAT THE TAPING WAS NOTICED, TRAFFIC BEGAN TO MOVE MORE RAPIDLY AND THE MOTORCADE DEPARTED.

SINCE APPROXIMATELY MID-JULY 1992, MEDELLIN TRAFFICKERS

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BEGAN TRYING TO IDENTIFY U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, THEIR ACTIVITIES, AND THEIR MODUS OPERANDI. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY A RELIABLE EMBASSY SOURCE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED SOME OFFICIALS CURRENTLY IN COUNTY, THE HOTELS THEY ARE STAYING IN AND THE NIGHT SPOTS THEY FREQUENT SOCIALLY.

ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, THE MEDELLIN GROUP IS CURRENTLY CONCENTRATING ITS ACTIVITIES ON LEARNING HOW THE U.S. OPERATES AGAINST TRAFFICKERS. THEY REPORTEDLY PLAN TO CONTINUE LOW KEY SURVEILLANCE OF U.S. OFFICIALS IN BOGOTA. THEY ARE ALSO CONDUCTING THE SAME SORT OF SURVEILLANCE IN MEDELLIN. THEY PARTICULARLY WANT TO KNOW WHICH U.S. OFFICIALS ARE TRAVELING TO MEDELLIN IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE 22 JULY ESCAPE OF PABLO ESCOBAR.

IN JULY A RAID WAS CONDUCTED BY COLOMBIAN POLICE ON A REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA (FARC) SAFEHOUSE IN PASCA (30 MILES SOUTH OF BOGOTA). AMONG THE CONFISCATED DOCUMENTS TAKEN BY THE POLICE WAS ONE DOCUMENT WITH THE NAME AND HOME PHONE NUMBER OF A USAF DAO MEMBER.

AUGUST

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IN LATE AUGUST, THE EMBASSY RECEIVED INFORMATION INDICATING THAT DRUG TRAFFICKER PABLO ESCOBAR HAD ORDERED THE ASSASSINATION OF A SPECIFICALLY NAMED U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENT. THE AGENT IS A MEMBER OF THE U.S. MISSION TO COLOMBIA. HE IS REPORTEDLY SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME IN MEDELLIN WORKING WITH GOC COUNTER NARCOTICS OFFICIAL AND KNOWS TOO MUCH ABOUT ESCOBAR'S MOVEMENTS AND PLANS. IN FACT, THE NAMED INDIVIDUAL WAS WORKING IN MEDELLIN AT THE TIME THE THREAT INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED. SECURITY FOR THIS OFFICER HAS BEEN INCREASED ACCORDINGLY.

ALSO DURING LATE AUGUST, DEA AGENTS IN BARRANQUILLA WERE TOLD BY A NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING SUSPECT THAT HE KNEW WHERE THEY LIVED. SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION INDICATED THAT HE SUSPECTED NARCO-TRAFFICKER (ASSOCIATED WITH THE ONE INITIALLY INTERVIEWED) LIVES IN THEIR APARTMENT.

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BUILDING. THE AGENTS WERE LATER INFORMED BY THEIR BUILDING DOORMAN THAT THE SUSPECTED TRAFFICKER WHO LIVES IN THEIR BUILDING HAD BEEN ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT THEM. THE QUESTIONING CENTERED ON THE AGENTS MOVEMENTS TO AND FROM THE APARTMENT BUILDING.

IN AUGUST, BECAUSE OF THE OVERALL SECURITY SITUATION IN COLOMBIA, THE RETURN OF HIGH SCHOOL DEPENDENTS FOR SCHOOLING IN BOGOTA DURING THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR WAS RESCINDED.

ON AUGUST 12, GOC MINISTER OF DEFENSE PUBLICLY ADMITTED TO THE PRESENCE OF ABOUT 100 USG OFFICIAL IN COLOMBIA TO ASSIST WITH THE DRUG WAR. THE MOD STRESSED THAT THESE OFFICIALS ARE ONLY "ADVISORS" BUT ADDED THAT SOME OF THEM ARE DEA.

## SEPTEMBER

IN SEPTEMBER, MILITARY POLICE SOURCES INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THE RURAL AREAS SURROUNDING BOGOTA WERE BEING USED AS STAGING AREAS FOR GUERRILLAS. TO SUPPORT THEIR THEORY, THEY CITED A RAID CONDUCTED ON SEPTEMBER 3 IN A VILLAGE OUTSIDE OF BOGOTA WHICH LED TO THE CAPTURE OF FIVE GUERRILLAS, THE SEIZURE OF COLOMBIAN ARMY UNIFORMS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.

IN CARTAGENA, IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, THE FARC BOMBED THE BANCO CAFETERO, LOCATED NEAR THE OLD WALLED CITY, A POPULAR ATTRACTION FREQUENTED BY VACATIONING EMBASSY AND CONSULATE EMPLOYEES. NO CASUALTIES RESULTED, BUT MANY OF THE SURROUNDING BUILDINGS SUSTAINED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE FROM THE BLAST. THE CARTAGENA NEWSPAPER, EL UNIVERSAL, ALSO REPORTED THAT THREATS HAD BEEN RECEIVED WARNING THAT BOMBS WERE BEING PLACED IN LUXURY HOTELS THROUGHOUT THE CITY. CARTAGENA IS A MAJOR GATHERING PLACE FOR U.S. SPONSORED CONFERENCES IN ADDITION TO BEING A VACATION MECCA FOR POST PERSONNEL.

A PATTERN OF URBAN ATTACKS WAS FURTHER SUBSTANTIATED BY

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BOMBINGS IN CALI AND MEDELLIN ON SEPTEMBER 3RD AND 7TH RESPECTIVELY. THE ELN BOMBED THE 17TH POLICE STATION AND TWO OTHER SITES SHORTLY AFTER NIGHTFALL. THE ATTACKS CAUSED SUBSTANTIAL MATERIAL DAMAGE BUT NO CASUALTIES. A RESIDENCE WAS DESTROYED BY 25 KILOS OF DYNAMITE IN MEDELLIN RESULTING IN NINE DEATHS AND EIGHT INJURIES. ALTHOUGH DRUG GANGS ROUTINELY ATTACK ONE ANOTHER IN MEDELLIN, AUTHORITIES BLAMES THE FARC FOR THIS PARTICULAR ATTACK SINCE THE TARGETED RESIDENCE WAS NOT LINKED TO NARCO INTERESTS.

ALSO DURING SEPTEMBER, THE DIRECTORATE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY (DAS) ADVISED THE EMBASSY THAT URBAN MILITIAS PLAN TO ATTACK URBAN CENTERS, TO INCLUDE THE CAPITAL, ON OR ABOUT OCTOBER 12TH. THIS DATE IS THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLUMBUS' DISCOVERY OF THE NEW WORLD.

THE RECENT UPSURGE IN URBAN GUERRILLA ACTIVITY, REFERENCED BELOW, SERVES TO SUBSTANTIATE THE INTELLIGENCE PROVIDED BY THE VARIOUS COLOMBIAN SECURITY SERVICES.

IN BOGOTA, ON SEPTEMBER 2ND, EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WERE DISCOVERED AT A POLICE STATION IN A SECTION OF THE CITY WHICH IS HOME TO MANY GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS INCLUDING THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. THE DEVICES WERE REPORTEDLY AFFIXED TO GOC SECURITY VEHICLES. THEY WERE SUCCESSFULLY DEACTIVATED BY GOC BOMB SQUAD MEMBERS. POLICE SUSPECT THE FARC OF HAVING PLACED THE BOMBS.

ALSO ON SEPTEMBER 2 THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP THE MAYORESS OF A SMALL TOWN NEAR BARRANQUILLA. THIS ATTEMPT OCCURRED ON THE CARTAGENA/BARRANQUILLA ROAD WHICH IS TRAVELED HEAVILY BY CONSULAR PERSONNEL. ATTACK WAS PERPETRATED BY FORMER EPL MEMBERS.

ON SEPTEMBER 4, NEAR VILLAVICENCIO IN META DEPARTMENT, A VEHICLE, TRANSPORTING AN ANTI-NARCOTICS POLICE PATROL WAS BLOWN UP WITH DYNAMITE. NINE POLICEMEN INJURED BY THE BLAST WERE SUBSEQUENTLY SHOT TO DEATH BY THE

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GUERRILLAS. THIS INCIDENT TOOK PLACE ON A ROAD UTILIZED BY EMBASSY EMPLOYEES WORKING WITH A COUNTER-NARCOTICS UNIT IN VILLAVICENCIO.

ON SEPTEMBER 7, OUR CONSULATE IN BARRANQUILLA REPORTED THAT A BOMB WAS THROWN THROUGH THE WINDOW OF A CENTRAL POLICE STATION LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE CITY. THE EXPLOSION CAUSED EXTENSIVE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO THE STATION AND INJURED A SCORE OF POLICEMEN AND CIVILIANS.

ON SEPTEMBER 9, THE FARC DYNAMITED THREE POLICE STATIONS IN A SOUTHERN SECTION OF BOGOTA. ONE POLICE OFFICER WAS KILLED AND SEVERAL VEHICLES WERE DAMAGED AS A RESULT OF THE BOMBINGS. THESE EARLY MORNING ATTACKS INVOLVED THE PLACEMENT OF EXPLOSIVES IN PARKED PATROL CARS. LATER THAT SAME DAY, ANOTHER POLICE STATION WAS REPORTEDLY DYNAMITED IN A DIFFERENT NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE SOUTH. THESE ATTACKS PROMPTED THE BOGOTA POLICE COMMANDER, GENERAL GUILLERMO LEON, TO ALSO STATE THAT THE GUERRILLAS WERE INDEED TRANSFERRING THEIR ATTACKS TO THE CITIES.

OCTOBER

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ON 10/2, COLOMBIAN SPECIAL FORCES CONFISCATED OVER 525 KG OF DYNAMITE, 300 MORTAR ROUNDS AND ROCKETS AND GRENADES, 10,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION AT A FARC CAMP IN GUTIERREZ, APPROXIMATELY 100 MILES SOUTH OF SANTA FE DE BOGOTA.

ON 10/10, A SMALL BOMB CONSISTING OF 100 GRAMS OF DYNAMITE EXPLODED AT THE METRO MOVIE HOUSE IN BARRANQUILLA.

ON 10/11, COLOMBIAN URBAN GUERRILLA COMMANDOES DETONATED FOUR BOMBS OF AVERAGE INTENSITY AT PUBLIC SERVICE FACILITIES IN BOGOTA.

ON 10/11, IN DOWNTOWN BARRANQUILLA, COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES CONFISCATED A CACHE OF DYNAMITE THAT GUERRILLAS HAD PLACED IN FRONT OF THE STATUE OF COLUMBUS

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ON 10/13, A ONE AND HALF POUND BOMB OF DYNAMITE EXPLODED IN THE AVIANCA MAIL OFFICE IN BARRANQUILLA.

ON 10/20, TWO BOMBS EXPLODED IN BOGOTA. ONE WAS PLACED IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA WHERE MANY EMBASSY EMPLOYEES LIVE. BOTH EXPLOSIVES WERE MADE WITH SMALL AMOUNTS OF DYNAMITE AND CAUSED NO INJURIES. NO RESPONSIBILITY WAS CLAIMED FOR THESE EXPLOSIONS; HOWEVER, THE PRESS REPORTED THE COORDINADORA NACIONAL GUERRILLA GROUP (CNG) AS BEING RESPONSIBLE.

ON 10/21, COLOMBIAN GUERRILLAS BURNED 13 BUSES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF BOGOTA CAUSING MATERIAL DAMAGE BUT NO CASUALTIES. ONE BURNING OCCURRED IN AN AREA WHERE ABOUT A HALF DOZEN EMBASSY EMPLOYEES RESIDE.

ON 10/24, REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA REBELS MURDERED BRITISH BUSINESSMAN PETER ARTHUR KESSLER.

ON 10/28, FROM MADRID, COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT CESAR GAVIRIA DISMISSED THE POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING THE DIALOGUES WITH THE GUERRILLAS ON OCTOBER 31.

ON 10/30, A SMALL BOMB EXPLODED IN FRONT OF A POLICE CAI IN CARTAGENA. NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED.

ON 10/31, AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS THROWN FROM A PASSING VEHICLE AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE MAYORESS OF JUAN DE ACOSTA, WHICH IS LOCATED THREE HOUSES AWAY FROM THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER'S APARTMENT IN BARRANQUILLA.

NOVEMBER

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NOVEMBER WITNESSED THE CONTINUED INCREASE OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT COLOMBIA. ON NOVEMBER 7, THREE FARC FRONTS COMPRISING 150 GUERRILLAS ATTACKED A POLICE STATION IN PUTUMAYO DEPARTMENT. THIS ACTION CULMINATED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF 26 NATIONAL POLICEMEN. AS A RESULT, PRESIDENT GAVIRIA DECLARED A "STATE OF EXCEPTION" AND OUTLINED FINANCIAL AND MILITARY STEPS TO

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BE TAKEN DURING THE NEXT 90 DAYS.

ON NOVEMBER 10, IN BOGOTA, A SMALL YIELD DEVICE EXPLODED IN FRONT OF A BOOKSTORE AT A MAJOR INTERSECTION DAMAGING THE STORE AND INJURING ONE PERSON. THE CGSB IS THOUGHT TO BE RESPONSIBLE. THE FOLLOWING DAY IN BOGOTA ONE STICK OF DYNAMITE EXPLODED DAMAGING A MOTORCYCLE DEALERSHIP LOCATED 7 BLOCKS FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY.

IN BARRANQUILLA, ON 11/14, A 3 KG BOMB EXPLODED UNDER A BRIDGE DAMAGING THE BRIDGE AS WELL AS A DRAINAGE PIPE. THIS ACTIVITY IS BELIEVED TO BE PART OF A GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN TO PARALYZE MAJOR ROADS AND AIR TRANSPORTATION ON THE COAST.

ON 11/16, THE GOC MADE PUBLIC PLANS CONFISCATED BY THE CGSB TO BLOCK 4 OF COLOMBIA'S MAJOR HIGHWAYS FOR 5 DAYS IN ORDER TO ISOLATE BOGOTA FROM THE REST OF THE COUNTRY.

ON 11/19, 6 BOMBS WERE DETONATED IN BOGOTA, BARRANQUILLA AND CUCUTA. THE TARGETS INCLUDED MILITARY, BUSINESS AND NEWSPAPER FACILITIES.

IN BOGOTA ON NOVEMBER 25, DURING A NIGHTTIME BOMBING WAVE, 9 MEDIUM INTENSITY DEVICES EXPLODED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CITY. TARGETS INCLUDED COLOMBIAN AND MULTI-NATIONAL BUSINESSES, THE MORMON CHURCH AND THE EL CAMPIN SPORT STADIUM. A TENTH EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS FOUND IN FRONT OF THE COLOMBO AMERICANO USIS BI-NATIONAL CENTER BUT WAS DEACTIVATED BY POLICE.

ALSO DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO INCREASE IN MEDELLIN. ON 11/3, EIGHT UNIFORMED NATIONAL POLICEMEN (CNP) WERE ASSASSINATED AND 9 WOUNDED IN DRIVEBY SHOOTINGS. ON 11/10, ALSO IN MEDELLIN, 8 IMMEDIATE ACTION POLICE CENTERS WERE BOMBED. THE FOLLOWING DAY FOUR MORE CNP OFFICERS WERE KILLED. WITH THE DEATH OF A POLICE CAPTAIN ON 11/21, A TOTAL OF 40 POLICE OFFICERS HAD BEEN KILLED IN MEDELLIN IN A MONTH'S TIME.

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DECEMBER

ELN GUERRILLA LEADER MARIO PIESCHACON NEGRINI, AKA FRANCISCO GALAN, WAS CAPTURED DECEMBER 3 IN BUCARAMANGA BY MILITARY FORCES. AS EXPECTED AT THE TIME, GALAN'S CAPTURE PROVOKED A STRONG REACTION FROM THE ELN WHICH INCLUDED FURTHER ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM IN DECEMBER.

IN THE FIRST PART OF DECEMBER, THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY DISCOVERED A TERRORIST PLAN CALLED "BLACK DECEMBER" WHICH WAS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE ELN IN BOGOTA AND SURROUNDING CITIES. IN CONNECTION WITH THESE PLANNED TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, TWO COLOMBIAN SOLDIER AND 3 CIVILIANS, APPARENT MEMBERS OF THE ELN, WERE ARRESTED FOR THE POSSESSION OF 130 KG OF DYNAMITE TO BE USED IN TERRORIST ATTACKS.

ON THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 3-4, FARC AND ELN GUERRILLAS DESTROYED AIRPORT NAVIGATION DEVICES IN CUCUTA, PEREIRA, BUENAVENTURA AND BUCARAMANGA. THE SAME NIGHT, A FIVE KG DYNAMITE BOMB WAS DEACTIVATED AT THE NAVAID STATION AT CALI'S AIRPORT.

AS A FURTHER POINT OF THE ESCALATION OF GUERRILLA ATTACKS, DURING THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 9, BETWEEN APPROXIMATELY 9-9:30 P.M., SEVEN EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WERE DETONATED AT FOUR MAJOR BOGOTA HOTELS. THERE WERE NO DEATHS, BUT AT LEAST 10 PEOPLE WERE INJURED. TWO EXPLOSIONS OCCURRED AT THE HOTEL HACIENDA ROYAL; ONE EXPLOSION AT THE HOTEL LA FONTANA; TWO EXPLOSIONS AT THE HOTEL ORQUIDEA REAL AND TWO EXPLOSIONS AT THE TEQUENDAMA HOTEL. THE EXPLOSIONS AT THE TEQUENDAMA OCCURRED ON THE 8TH AND 11TH FLOORS WHILE A U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE EVENT WAS UNDERWAY IN A MAIN RECEPTION ROOM ON THE HOTEL'S MAIN FLOOR. THE DEVICE IN THE LA FONTANA WAS DETONATED IN A ROOM ADJACENT TO THAT OF A MILGROUP TDY PERSON AND IN THE VICINITY OF THREE OTHER ROOMS OCCUPIED BY MILGROUP TDY PERSONNEL. ONE U.S. PERSONNEL HAD RINGING IN HIS EARS AND WAS TAKEN TO A LOCAL

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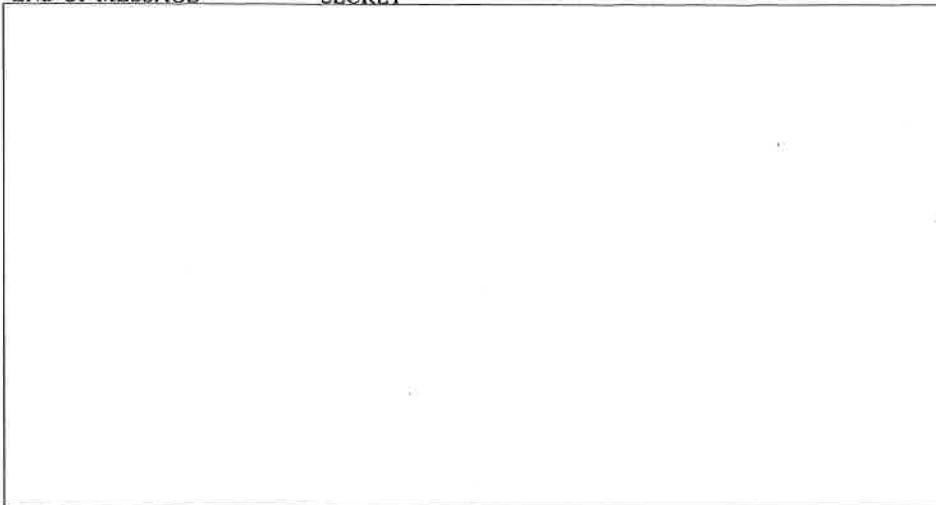
HOSPITAL FOR A CHECK-UP. HE WAS RELEASED THE SAME DAY.

COLOMBIAN SOURCES BELIEVE THESE ATTACKS WERE A SHOW OF THE GUERRILLAS' ABILITY TO HIT URBAN TARGETS AND PROBABLY IN RETALIATION FOR THE DECEMBER 4 CAPTURE OF ELN LEADER GALAN. AN ADDITIONAL TWO 15 KG BOMBS WERE DEFUSED AT THE LA FONTANA HOTEL ON DECEMBER 10. HAD THESE BOMBS GONE OFF, A SIGNIFICANTLY MORE POWERFUL BLAST THAN THAT OF THE DECEMBER 9 DYNAMITE CHARGES WOULD HAVE BEEN PRODUCED.

CRAIG

END OF MESSAGE

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B3 CIA PERS/ORG

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TOR: 111324Z JAN 93 BOGOTA 00408

CLASS: SECRET

CONTROLS: S E C R E T BOGOTA 00408 DEPT FOR DS/DSS/ITA (RRROSS) E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

DECLASSON: MR

DOCPREC: R

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DOCUMENT\_ID: 22925314

DOR: 19930111

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FROM: FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
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