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TITLE: SUBJECT: HOSTAGE CASES SINCE 1980

ORIGDATE: 199411011359

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 015855

TEXT:

TAGS: CASC, ASIG, ASEC

COMBINE: COMPLETE

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA, B6

SUBJECT: HOSTAGE CASES SINCE 1980

REF: COCKBURN/HODEL/PETROVICH CONVERSATION OF 10/19/94

1. SINCE 1980 THE EMBASSY HAS LEARNED OF 67 U.S. CITIZENS KIDNAPPED IN COLOMBIA. THE FOLLOWING LIST, COMPILED FROM CONSULAR ARCHIVES AND ACS EMPLOYEE MEMORIES, MAY BE INCOMPLETE, AS THE EMBASSY REGULARLY DESTROYS FILES IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS. THE CITIZENS EMERGENCY CENTER IN THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS MAY RECORD OTHER INCIDENTS.

2. FEBRUARY 1980- M-19 INSURGENTS HELD US AMBASSADOR DIEGO ASENCIO AND A GROUP OF OTHER CHIEFS OF MISSION HOSTAGE IN THE DOMINICAN EMBASSY. AFTER APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS THE GUERRILLAS RELEASED ALL PRISONERS UNHARMED.

3. SPRING 1980- [REDACTED] A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER, DISAPPEARED FROM BOGOTA. HIS CAPTORS LATER RETURNED HIM UNHARMED. THE DETAILS ARE UNKNOWN.

4. FALL 1980- THE M-19 KIDNAPPED SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS MISSIONARY BRUCE BITTERMAN FROM BOGOTA AND KILLED HIM IN MARCH OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

5. FEBRUARY 1981- [REDACTED] DISAPPEARED IN GUERRILLA TERRITORY. THEY WERE POSSIBLY KIDNAPPED, AND ARE NOW PRESUMED DEAD.

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6. APRIL 1983- A GUERRILLA GROUP TOOK [REDACTED]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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FROM HER RANCH IN META DEPARTMENT. IT RELEASED HER UNHARMED IN NOVEMBER OF THAT YEAR.

7. FALL 1983- GUERRILLAS ABDUCTED [REDACTED] [REDACTED] IN META, AND RELEASED HIM UNTOUCHED AFTER TWO OR THREE MONTHS.

8. SUMMER 1985 - [REDACTED], A VISITING TENNECO ENGINEER, VANISHED AND LATER REAPPEARED.

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9. FALL 1985- UNIDENTIFIED CAPTORS DETAINED FOUR NEW TRIBES MISSIONARIES, [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS, LATER RELEASING THEM UNHARMED.

10. DECEMBER 1985- EPL GUERRILLAS KIDNAPPED EDWARD SOHL, [REDACTED] (BECHTEL AND FLUOR EMPLOYEES) IN JUNE 1986. SOHL DIED, PRESUMABLY FROM DYSENTERY AND COMPLICATIONS. THE INSURGENTS RELEASED THE TWO OTHER MEN IN JUNE 1986 AFTER THE COLOMBIAN PEACE COMMISSION INTERVENED.

11. APRIL 1986- [REDACTED] ESCAPED FROM THE M-19 DURING A MILITARY RAID.

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12. 1986- [REDACTED] A GOLD MINER, WAS TAKEN BY ELN. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE ESCAPED AFTER 6 MONTHS.

13. 4 OCTOBER 1987- WHILE TRAVELLING IN THE PUTUMAYO AND CAQUETA REGION [REDACTED] WERE ABDUCTED BY THE FARC. ON 14 AUGUST THEIR CAPTORS SURRENDERED THEM TO MONSIGNOR JOSE LUIS SERNA, BISHOP OF CAQUETA. THE FARC FREED THEM ON "HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS" WITHOUT RANSOM.

14. 24 JUNE 1988- AN ELN GROUP OPERATING IN SAVANNA DE TORRES KIDNAPPED [REDACTED], AN EMPLOYEE OF GENERAL PIPE SERVICES, AND RELEASED HIM [REDACTED].

15. 24 OCTOBER 1988- THE ELN ABDUCTED [REDACTED] [REDACTED] A FORMER U.S. CITIZEN AND NATURALIZED COLOMBIAN, PHILOLOGIST AND MISSIONARY, IN ZAPATAMA, TIBU. THE GUERRILLAS LET HIM GO ON 19 JULY 1989 IN THE VENEZUELAN

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BORDER TOWN OF URUENA.

16. 3 JANUARY 1989- TEN ARMED MEN SEIZED MISSIONARIES [REDACTED] DURING A CHURCH SERVICE IN LLANITO, NEAR FLORIDA, VALLE. THE CAPTORS DID NOT IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AND LEFT GRAFFITI DENOUNCING THE DEA AND EXTRADITION AT THE KIDNAPPING SITE. THEY RELEASED THEIR VICTIMS WITHOUT RANSOM ON 12 MARCH ON "HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS."

17. 28 JANUARY 1989- AFTER LEAVING THE COUNTRY CLUB IN MEDELLIN, [REDACTED] WAS ABDUCTED WITH COLOMBIAN CITIZEN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] AN ART DEALER RESIDENT IN MILL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, HAD ARRIVED IN COLOMBIA ON 17 JANUARY TO VISIT FRIENDS. MEDELLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE RESCUED HIM ON 7 FEBRUARY 1989. ALTHOUGH KIDNAPPERS WERE NOT IDENTIFIED, POLICE BELIEVED THEM TO BE COMMON CRIMINALS.

18. 3 MARCH 1989- ELN GUERRILLAS TOOK [REDACTED] FROM THE FAMILY RANCH IN ARAUCA. THEY SET HER FREE ON 5 JUNE 1989, [REDACTED] SHE REPORTEDLY RECEIVED EXCELLENT TREATMENT FROM HER CAPTORS.

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19. 27 MARCH 1989 - ROBERT G. HUTCHINS, AN INDUSTRIAL OVENS EXPERT, CAME TO BOGOTA TO ADVISE THE PELDAR GLASSWORKS. HE DISAPPEARED IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL AT EL DORADO AIRPORT AND HIS BODY SURFACED ON 28 MARCH, SHOT IN THE ABDOMEN. AUTHORITIES BELIEVED THE PERPETRATORS TO BE COMMON CRIMINALS.

20. 1 MAY 1989 [REDACTED] A BUSINESSMAN, WAS KIDNAPPED WHILE LEAVING A NIGHTCLUB IN CARTAGENA. HIS CAPTORS SET HIM FREE 20 DAYS LATER [REDACTED] REPORTS INDICATED THAT THE FARC AUTHORED THE ABDUCTION, ALTHOUGH OTHER SOURCES ALLEGED NARCOTRAFFICKER INVOLVEMENT.

21. AUGUST 1989- THE EPL TOOK [REDACTED] AND RELEASED HIM [REDACTED]

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22. 18 JANUARY 1990- [REDACTED] WAS ABDUCTED FROM HER FARM IN THE MAGDALENA VALLEY NEAR SALALA, TOLIMA. SHE WAS WELL TREATED AND RELEASED AFTER 18 DAYS [REDACTED]

23. 12 FEBRUARY 1990- ON FALSE PRETENSES, THE ELN GAINED ENTRY TO [REDACTED] HOME NEAR MEDELLIN AND ABDUCTED HIM AT THE TIME OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S DRUG SUMMIT IN CARTAGENA. THEY RELEASED HIM ON 24 FEBRUARY.

24. 13 FEBRUARY 1990 - THE ELN TOOK [REDACTED] A TEACHER AT THE COLUMBUS SCHOOL IN MEDELLEN, FROM HIS HOME DURING THE DRUG SUMMIT AND RELEASED HIM ON 24 FEBRUARY.

25. 15 FEBRUARY 1990 - THE ELN ABDUCTED [REDACTED] [REDACTED], A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST RESIDENT IN CALI, AS HE WALKED FROM THE MISSION HOUSE TO THE SISTERS OF CHARITY CONVENT. HIS ABDUCTION COINCIDED WITH PRESIDENT BUSH'S DRUG SUMMIT IN CARTAGENA. HIS CAPTORS RELEASED HIM UNHARMED WITHOUT RANSOM.

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26. 28 APRIL 1990- EPL FORCES KIDNAPPED [REDACTED] EMPLOYED BY IMINCO GOLD MINING COMPANY NEAR SANTA CECILIA PROVINCE, ECUADOR, ON RIO BEROJA NEAR THE BORDER AND ALLEGEDLY MOVED HIM TO COLOMBIA. [REDACTED] HE WENT FREE ON JUNE 30 OR JULY 21, 1990 IN ECUADOR.

27. 18 MAY 1990- [REDACTED] WAS KIDNAPPED WITH HIS STEPFATHER [REDACTED] FROM THEIR FINCA IN ANTIOQUIA. A SEPTEMBER 4 POLICE OPERATION FREED THE BOY AND KILLED HIS STEPFATHER. ONE PRESS REPORT LINKED THE KIDNAPPERS TO NARCOTRAFFICKER PABLO ESCOBAR GAVIRIA. MEDIA COVERAGE DID NOT IDENTIFY [REDACTED] AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

28. 24 JUNE 1990- A GROUP CALLED "LA ORGANIZACION" KIDNAPPED 16 YEAR OLD DUAL NATIONAL ANDRES MEJIA

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JARAMILLO FROM THE FAMILY FARM IN ALCALA, VALLE DEL CAUCA. ON 28 SEPTEMBER ASSASSINS KILLED HIS FATHER IN MANIZALES FOR REASONS APPARENTLY UNRELATED TO THE BOY'S ABDUCTION. ON 26 NOVEMBER ANDRES'S BODY WAS FOUND WITH ITS SKULL CRUSHED.

29. OCTOBER 1990- MEN IDENTIFIED AS COMMON CRIMINALS TOOK DUAL NATIONAL [REDACTED] A POLICE RESCUE OPERATION FREED HIM AND KILLED SEVERAL OF HIS CAPTORS. POLICE LATER ADVISED THE [REDACTED] FAMILY TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY FOR A WHILE, IN CASE THE ABDUCTORS TRIED TO SEIZE THEM.

30. 25 NOVEMBER 1990- ELN OPERATIVES ABDUCTED [REDACTED] PETROLEUM ENGINEERS EMPLOYED BY THE NATIONAL TANK COMPANY (NATCO), ON CONTRACT WITH THE COLOMBIAN COMPANY DISTRAL, AT QUEBRADA LA CARBONERA, NEAR TIBU, NORTE DE SANTANDER DEPARTMENT AND DETAINED A COLOMBIAN COLLEAGUE TO ACT AS TRANSLATOR. THE GUERRILLAS FREED THE THE FOUR ON 26 NOVEMBER 1991, [REDACTED]

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31. 4 APRIL 1991- THE ELN TOOK [REDACTED] [REDACTED] A DUAL NATIONAL (AMERICAN/VENEZUELAN) NEAR HIS RANCH IN CASIGUA EL CUBO, VENEZUELA. HE REGAINED HIS FREEDOM ON 17 APRIL [REDACTED]

32. 20 APRIL 1991- THREE MEN KIDNAPPED WILLIAM ROBERT GRIEBLING FROM HIS FARM OUTSIDE IBAGUE, TOLIMA DEPARTMENT. HE PERISHED ON 28 MAY IN A POLICE RECONNAISSANCE OPERATION THAT APPARENTLY WENT AWRY. POLICE INITIALLY CALLED HIS ABDUCTORS COMMON CRIMINALS BUT LATER LABELED THEM AS FARC. IN 1992, HIS WIDOW SAID THAT HER SON HAD RECEIVED THREATS AND THE FAMILY DEPARTED FOR THE UNITED STATES.

33. SEPTEMBER 1991- ELN INSURGENTS ABDUCTED NORMAN R. JETLAND, A LONG TIME RESIDENT OF COLOMBIA. IN MARCH 1992, THE GUERRILLAS CONTACTED HIS FAMILY IN THE U.S. AND DEMANDED 2 MILLION DOLLARS. THE FAMILY LATER

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ADVISED POST THAT HIS CAPTORS HAD KILLED HIM IN OCTOBER 1992.

34. 13 DECEMBER 1991- THE FARC TOOK [REDACTED] AN EMPLOYEE OF PREMBI GOLD, INC., FROM HIS CAMP NEAR LEIVA, NARIÑO DEPARTMENT. THE GUERRILLAS RELEASED HIM ON 25 JANUARY 1992 [REDACTED]

35. 8 JANUARY 1992- ABDUCTORS, PRESUMED TO BE FARC, TOOK JOSE LOPEZ, NATURALIZED U.S. CITIZEN, FROM HIS PLACE OF WORK, OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA, VALLE DE CAUCA DEPARTMENT. DESPITE A FULFILLED RANSOM AGREEMENT, GUERRILLAS KILLED LOPEZ AND SHOWED THE REMAINS TO HIS WIFE. SHE LATER RECEIVED THREATS REFERRING TO THE PAYMENT.

36. 21 JANUARY 1992- ELN FORCES KIDNAPPED [REDACTED] [REDACTED] OWNER OF A GOLD MINING BUSINESS BASED IN CARTAGENA, FROM BAGRE, ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT. THEY RELEASED HIM IN DECEMBER 1992 [REDACTED]

37. 3 FEBRUARY 1992 [REDACTED] 5 YEARS OLD, WAS ABDUCTED ON HIS WAY TO SCHOOL AND LATER RELEASED AS UNASE, THE COLOMBIAN HOSTAGE RESCUE SQUAD, CLOSED IN.

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38. 6 FEBRUARY 1992- FARC AGENTS OPERATING IN MUTATA, ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT KIDNAPPED [REDACTED], A LONGTIME RESIDENT OF MEDELLIN AND A GEOLOGIST EMPLOYED BY THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCY INGEOMINAS THEN RETURNED HIM [REDACTED] ON 3 MARCH.

39. 17 JULY 1992- TWO MEN ON A MOTORBIKE TOOK [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 4 YEARS OLD, FROM THE CORNER IN FRONT OF HIS GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE IN MEDELLIN. [REDACTED] AND HIS PARENTS, RESIDENT IN NEW YORK, WERE VISITING FAMILY AT THE TIME. HIS CAPTORS RELEASED HIM ON NOVEMBER 7, WITHOUT RANSOM.

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40. 28 AUGUST 1992- ELN GUERRILLAS NEAR TIBU, NORTE DE SANTANDER KIDNAPPED [REDACTED] A MINING BUSINESSMAN BASED IN VENEZUELA AND SURRENDERED HIM ON JUNE 3, 1993 TO THE CUSTODY OF A PRIEST IN COLOMBIA, [REDACTED]

41. 14 DECEMBER 1992- ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS [REDACTED] AGE 3, WAS KIDNAPPED AND RESCUED BY UNASE, THE COLOMBIAN ANTI-KIDNAPPING FORCE, UNHARMED, ON 19 DECEMBER. POST WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE STORIES.

42. 27 DECEMBER 1992- THE ELN SEIZED [REDACTED] A NATURALIZED AMCIT AND SUB-CONTRACTOR FOR BRITISH PETROLEUM, OUTSIDE YOPAL, CASANARE. THE GOC LEARNED OF HIS RELEASE ON 13 JANUARY 1993, [REDACTED] PAYMENT.

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43. 31 JANUARY 1993- THE FARC KIDNAPPED THREE NEW TRIBES MISSIONARIES, MARK RICH, DAVID MANKINS, AND RICK TENENOFF, FROM THE DARIEN GAP AREA OF PANAMA AND REMOVED THEM TO COLOMBIA. THE GUERRILLAS DEMANDED FIVE MILLION DOLLARS RANSOM.

44. 3 FEBRUARY 1993- KIDNAPPERS BELIEVED TO BE COLOMBIAN SEIZED AMCIT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] A VENEZUELAN PILOT, AND HIS PLANE FROM A FISHING CAMP ON THE CINARUCO RIVER IN SOUTH-CENTRAL VENEZUELA AND RELEASED THEM ON MARCH 12, 1993 IN COLOMBIA [REDACTED]

45. 23 FEBRUARY 1993 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] WAS KIDNAPPED NEAR SAN FRANCISCO DE ICHO, CHOCO DEPARTMENT, PRESUMABLY BY ELN. THE RED CROSS AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ARRANGED HIS FREEDOM [REDACTED]

46. 21 APRIL 1993- ELN OPERATIVES KIDNAPPED [REDACTED] [REDACTED] A MINING CONTRACTOR, NEAR AMALFI, ANTIOQUIA, IN THE MIDDLE OF LABOR TROUBLES. THEY RELEASED HIM ON JUNE 25, 1993, APPARENTLY BECAUSE THE HOSTAGE GAVE THEM

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NO LEVERAGE WITH THE MINE OWNERS.

47. 5 MAY 1993- UNIDENTIFIED COLOMBIANS KIDNAPPED

[REDACTED] WILLBROS EMPLOYEES, FROM THE LAGO AGRIO AREA OF ECUADOR, NEAR THE NORTHERN BORDER. THE U.S. SECURITY FIRM, CLAYTON ASSOCIATES, ARRANGED THE RELEASE OF [REDACTED]

48. 10 AUGUST 1993- THREE ARMED MEN SEIZED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AN ENGINEER FOR SCHLUMBERGE, WHILE HE DROVE NEAR YOPAL, CASANARE AND RELEASED HIM ON 19 AUGUST. THIS INFORMATION IS BASED ON AN ARTICLE IN THE 20 AUGUST EL TIEMPO.

49. AUGUST 1993- [REDACTED] WIFE REPORTED THAT HER HUSBAND DISAPPEARED IN COLOMBIA. SHE LATER REFUSED TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION. THE CASE PROBABLY HAS CONNECTIONS TO NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES.

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50. 16 JANUARY 1994- A LARGE FARC FORCE TOOK TIMOTHY VAN DYKE AND STEPHEN WELSH, NEW TRIBES MISSION (NTM) MEMBERS, FROM THE NTM BASE NEAR VILLAVICENCIO.

51. 14 JANUARY 1994- ELN AGENTS ABDUCTED [REDACTED] AND HIS COLOMBIAN WIFE AT A ROADBLOCK BETWEEN CARTAGENA AND BUCARAMANGA. THEY RELEASED THE WIFE AFTER 3 MONTHS AND FREED [REDACTED] ON 3 JULY, [REDACTED] THE EXTENDED FAMILY THEN LEFT COLOMBIA FOR THEIR SAFETY.

52. 4 JUNE 1994- TWO AMERICAN OIL WORKERS, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] DISAPPEARED IN THE FAR NORTH OF ECUADOR. WITNESSES LAST SAW THEM IN THE COMPANY OF TWO COLOMBIAN WOMEN, AND CIRCUMSTANCES INDICATE POSSIBLE FARC INVOLVEMENT.

53. 31 MARCH 1994- FARC GUERRILLAS KIDNAPPED SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS [REDACTED] [REDACTED] NEAR THE ORGANIZATION'S COMPOUND

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IN LOMA LINDA.

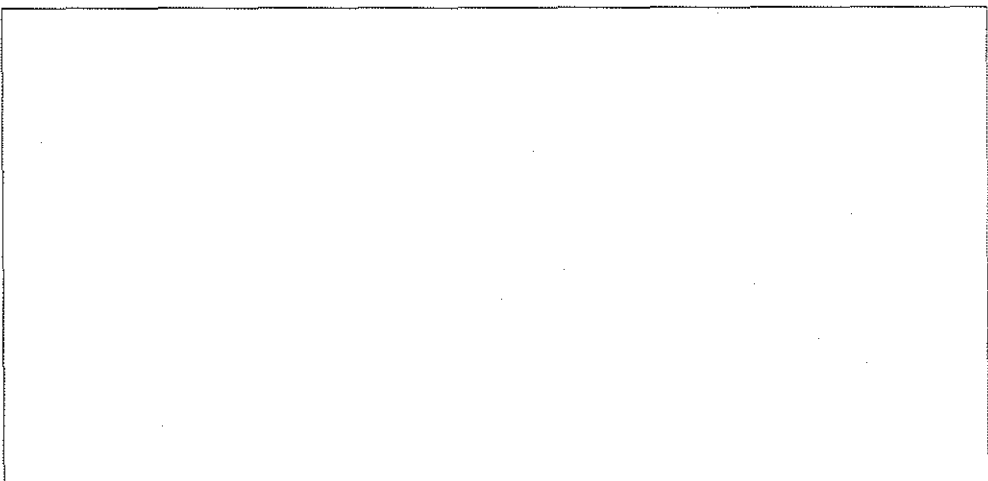
53. 23 SEPTEMBER 1994- [REDACTED]  
WORKING WITH THE CENTER FOR TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH, VANISHED AT A GUERRILLA ROADBLOCK OUTSIDE  
CALI. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE CAPTORS HAVE YET TO  
CONTACT HIS FAMILY OR EMPLOYER.

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END OF MESSAGE

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