

SECRET

33447146

TITLE: SUBJECT: DEPUTY 4TH BRIGADE COMMANDER FIRED FOR PERMITTING UNAUTHORIZED VISIT AT ENVGADO

ORIGDATE: 199107182205

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 10881

TEXT:

TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, KJUS, PINR, CO

SUBJECT: DEPUTY 4TH BRIGADE COMMANDER FIRED FOR PERMITTING UNAUTHORIZED VISIT AT ENVGADO

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

1. (U) THE COLOMBIAN PRESS REPORTED JULY 17 THAT THE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE ARMY'S 4TH BRIGADE, COL. AUGUSTO BAHAMON DUSSAN, HAS BEEN FIRED FOR ALLOWING COLOMBIA'S LEADING SOCCER STAR, RENE HUIGITA, TO VISIT PABLO ESCOBAR AT ENVIGADO. COL. JORGE PINEDA CARVAJAL WAS NAMED AS BAHAMON'S TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT.

2. (C) HUIGUITA, THE GOALIE OF THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL TEAM, VISITED ESCOBAR EARLIER THIS MONTH SHORTLY BEFORE HE LEFT THE COUNTRY FOR A MAJOR TOURNAMENT IN CHILE. THE VISIT OF THE COUNTRY'S NUMBER ONE SPORTS HERO TO ITS NUMBER ONE NARCO HAS EMBARRASSED THE GAVIRIA ADMINISTRATION. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MIGUEL SILVA TOLD POLOFF JULY 17 THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS ANGRY AND FRUSTRATED BY THE VISIT, WHICH COMES WHILE THE GAVIRIA PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO DISPEL THE IMAGE OF AN OPEN-DOOR POLICY AT ENVIGADO.

3. (S/NF) COMMENT: WHILE HUIGUITA'S VISIT WAS THE OSTENSIBLE REASON FOR BAHAMON'S DISMISSAL, IT DOES NOT REVEAL THE WHOLE STORY.

[REDACTED] HIS FOLLY IN ALLOWING THE SOCCER STAR'S VISIT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO GET RID OF A BAD APPLE WITHOUT HAVING TO PROVE AN EXTENSIVE CASE AGAINST HIM. IN ANY EVENT, THIS EPISODE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THE PUBLIC SENSITIVITY BEING SHOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT OVER WHO CONTROLS ENVIGADO. HOBBS

B1
25X6
25X1

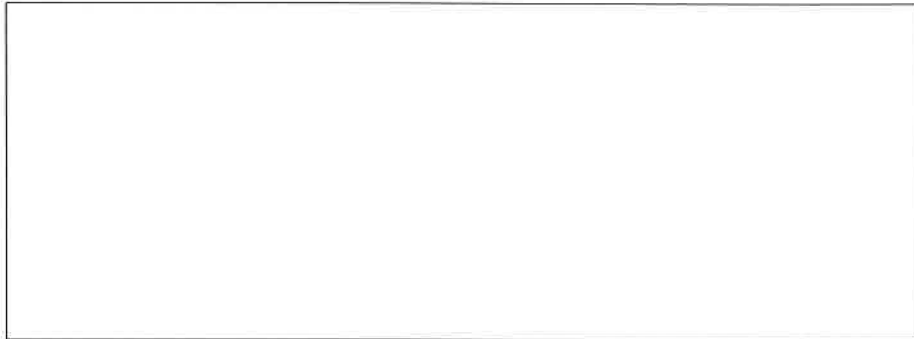
REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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Classification Extended on : 08/11/2014 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reasons: 25X1, 25X6

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END OF MESSAGE SECRET



B3 CIA PERS/ORG

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CLASS: SECRET
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