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TITLE: SUBJECT: MAJOR NARCO HITMAN KILLED IN POLICE RAID

ORIGDATE: 199204302350

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DOCNO: BOGOTA 06529

TEXT:

TAGS: PHUM, SNAR, PINS, CO

SUBJECT: MAJOR NARCO HITMAN KILLED IN POLICE RAID

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA
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1. (U) SUMMARY: JAIME EDUARDO RUEDA ROCHA, MEDELLIN CARTEL-HIRED ASSASSIN, REPORTED ASPIRING MAGDALENA MEDIO PARAMILITARY LEADER AND BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 1989 ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE LUIS CARLOS GALAN SARMIENTO, WAS KILLED ALONG WITH SEVEN OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS BAND IN A POLICE RAID APRIL 23. END SUMMARY.

EIGHT BAD GUYS DEAD

2. (U) ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE RAID, LASTING LESS THAN THREE MINUTES, OCCURRED AFTER EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION AND SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS BY THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP OF THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE (CNP) IN THE TOWN OF HONDA, TOLIMA DEPARTMENT. ONE OF THE SEVEN KILLED WITH RUEDA, GUSTAVO CASTRO VARGAS, WAS A SERGEANT ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY ASSIGNED TO THE FIFTH ARMY BRIGADE IN BUCARAMANGA. THREE POLICE WERE WOUNDED, ONE REMAINS IN CRITICAL CONDITION. POLICE OFFICIALS HAVE HAILED THE OPERATION AS A "TRIUMPH IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME."

ONE BAD DUDE

3. (U) RUEDA WAS REPORTEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR A LONG LINE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. HIS MOST NOTORIOUS CRIME BEING THE AUGUST 1989 ASSASSINATION OF LUIS CARLOS GALAN, LIBERAL PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. (PRESIDENT GAVIRIA WAS GALAN'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER.) OTHER OFFENSES, IMPRESSIVE IN THEIR OWN RIGHT, INCLUDE EXPLOSIVE ATTACKS ON THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY (ROUGH FBI EQUIVALENT) AND BOGOTA'S LEADING NATIONAL NEWSPAPER, AND MURDERS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE MAGDALENA MEDIO REGION, PARTICULARLY THE RECENT KILLING OF PUERTO BOYACA MAYOR, GUSTAVO LONDONO. .

4. (U) PRESS REPORTS INCLUDED RUMORS EMANATING FROM THE PARAMILITARY/GUERRILLA INFESTED MAGDALENA MEDIO THAT SUGGEST RUEDA HAD BEEN CONSOLIDATING HIS POWER IN AN ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER LEADERSHIP OF THE PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING IN THE REGION. RUEDA AND HIS MEN ALSO HAD LINKS WITH PABLO ESCOBAR AND THE MEDELLIN CARTEL. ESCOBAR IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THE INTELLECTUAL AUTHOR OF THE GALAN ASSASSINATION.

ARMY OFFICERS DISMISSED

5. (U) IN A POSSIBLY RELATED EVENT, TWO OFFICERS WERE REPORTED DISMISSED FROM ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE PENDING AN INVESTIGATION INTO ARMY INVOLVEMENT IN PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS. LIEUTENANT COLONEL JULIO ANIBAL ANGARITA AND MAJOR CARLOS ENRIQUE MARTINEZ OROZCO WERE COMMANDER AND DEPUTY COMMANDER, RESPECTIVELY, OF THE BATTALION OF PATRIOTIC INFANTRY HEADQUARTERED IN HONDA. FEW DETAILS WERE PROVIDED BUT CHARGES RELATE TO NEGLIGENCE IN PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES AGAINST PARAMILITARY GROUPS. AT THIS POINT, NEITHER HAS BEEN FORMALLY IMPLICATED IN THE INVESTIGATION RESULTING FROM THE RUEDA INCIDENT.

BUSBY

END OF MESSAGE

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