(b)(2)  SUBJ: IIR  THE CONVIVIR IN ANTIOQUIA --
BECOMING INSTITUTIONALIZED AND SPREADING ITS REACH (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED
SECRET.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 970322.

RECS: (U) [Redacted]

SOURCE: (U) [Redacted]

(b)(1)  SUMMARY: (U) ANTIOQUIA IS THE HEARTLAND OF THE SECURITY
COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT "CONVIVIR." [Redacted] MOVEMENT IS SPREADING
ACROSS COLOMBIA. DESPITE ITS LEGALITY, CONVIVIR HAS BEEN
UNABLE TO DISPEL FEARS IT MAY BECOME JUST ANOTHER ILLEGAL
PARAMILITARY EFFORT.

TEXT: 1. [Redacted]

2. [Redacted]
3. The Convivir is a totally legal, government-sponsored grouping of "associations," the Convivirs were established under Ministry of Defense (MOD) Decree No. 356/94, entitled "Servicios Especiales de Vigilancia y Seguridad Privada" (Special Services of Vigilance and Private Security). Through a "Superintendency" in Bogota, carefully monitors the burgeoning Convivir elements to ensure they do not follow the patterns of those notorious paramilitary/autodefensa organizations that operate "on the margins of the law." He was very insistent that there are striking differences between the legal GOC/MOD-sanctioned Convivirs and the illegal paramilitaries that are declared enemies of the state.

4. The "functional support" role of the elements as one of providing "intelligence" and "communications," along with a "social commitment" to the communities in which they reside. In no way do the Convivir's conduct "independent operations." And they are essentially unarmed unless they carry their personal weapons that many rural peasants tend to own (mainly shotguns or pistols). To ensure they stick to the role intended, the MOD maintains a superintendency that exercises oversight and issues licenses for the Convivir's to operate.
EVERYTHING REGARDING THE
CONVIVIR’S IS DONE ABOVE-BOARD AND ACCORDING TO THE
NATIONAL CONSTITUTION. THEY ARE “NOT CLANDESTINE,” HE
INSISTED, AND MERELY SERVE AS ONE MORE “LEGAL TOOL” FOR
INTEGRATING COUNTERGUERRILLA-ORIENTED ELEMENTS INTO
SOCIETY.

5. [C] HOW THE CONVIVIR ELEMENTS
 COMMUNICATE THE INFORMATION THEY PICK UP, GIVEN THAT MOST
 ARE POOR PEASANTS WITH NO TELEPHONES, THE
 BRIGADE PROVIDES THEM WITH A RADIO. A SEPARATE “CODE”
 (NO DOUBT HE MEANT A CALLSIGN) IS ASSIGNED TO EACH RADIO
 SO THAT WHEN INFORMATION IS CALLED IN IT IS KNOWN RIGHT
 AWAY WHERE IT IS COMING FROM. THE NODE
 FOR COLLECTING THESE DATA IS THE BRIGADE B-2 OFFICE.

WHAT SORT OF PREVIOUS
TRAINING INDIVIDUALS IN THE CONVIVIR’S HAD.

IT WAS A MIXED BAG, BUT THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF THEM
WERE RESERVISTS OR FORMER SOLDIERS WHO WERE STILL ABLE TO
APPLY THE TRAINING THEY HAD RECEIVED WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY
IN THE COLAR.

6. [C] 

7. [C] IF A HUMAN RIGHTS CASE
DEVELOPS AT BATTALION LEVEL, THE BATTALION HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICER (LOWEST LEVEL THE POSITION EXISTS) REPORTS THE
INFORMATION TO HIS COMMANDER, WHO IN TURN REPORTS IT TO
THE BRIGADE COMMANDER, AND ON UP TO THE DIVISION
COMMANDER. FROM THERE, IT WOULD GO TO THE COLAR
INSPECTOR GENERAL (IG) OFFICE IN BOGOTA, SINCE THE ARMY
STAFF IS THE LOWEST LEVEL TO HAVE AN IG (UNLIKE IN THE
U.S. Army where corps and division-sized units have a fulltime IG assigned. The current Colar IG is MG Fernando (Tapias) Stahelin, former Fifth Division Commander in Bogota and before that both D-2 and D-3 on the military forces staff.

Comments: 1. X

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]