SECRET

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serial: (u) IIR

Text

country: (u) colombia (co); brazil (br); argentina (ar); peru (pe); ecuador (ec); venezuela (ve); panama (pm)

//ips: (u) 

combine: complete

subj: IIR SENIOR COLOMBIAN ARMY OFFICER BIDDING HIS TIME DURING REMAINDER OF SAMPER REGIME (U)

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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doi: (u) 970710.

req: (c) 

source: (u) 

summary: TSL SHARES views on a host of topics. IS PESSIMISTIC about chances for any improvement in the capability of the armed forces as long as samper is in power, and expresses concern about the goc's ability to control convivir's. enclosures.

Text: 1. TSL

A BROAD RANGE OF OTHER ISSUES ALSO CAME UP IN THE DISCUSSION REFLECTING ON BORDER PROBLEMS. THE VENEZUELAN FRONTIER HAD ALWAYS BEEN EXTREMELY POROUS AND TENSE. GUERRILLA IMPUNITY IN AREAS SUCH AS ARAUCA, WHERE THE TRAGIC 6 JUL DOWNING OF A HELICOPTER LOADED WITH COBRA TROOPS HAD OCCURRED, GREATLY COMPLICATED MATTERS FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS, WHICH SEEMED INCAPABLE OF STEMMING THE IMMENSE TRAFFIC IN CONTRABAND GOING BACK AND FORTH IN SEVERAL SECTORS OF THEIR MUTUAL BORDER. NOW THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAD TO DEAL WITH THE INCREASINGLY PROBLEMATIC PANAMANIAN BORDER TOO, lamented, stating that the NEXT TASK FOR THE AFTERNOON WAS DEALING WITH A DELEGATION OF PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS VISITING WITH THE MOD ON THAT ISSUE. Half-jokingly added that assumed something would NEXT flare up with PERU, ECUADOR, OR BRAZIL, THOUGH THE SCANT POPULATION AND GOVERNMENT PRESENCE IN THE AMAZON JUNGLE OF THE LATTER MIGHT HELP ENSURE THAT BORDER REMAINS RELATIVELY CALM.

SEEMED VERY PESSIMISTIC THAT THE TACTICAL SITUATION IN COLOMBIA WOULD IMPROVE ANYTIME SOON. Stated directly and frankly that nothing


7. [REDACTED] ASKED [REDACTED] WHAT THEIR CAREER PLANS WERE, AND WHETHER THEY HAD A SHOT AT MAKING GENERAL OFFICER, [REDACTED] SHOCKED [REDACTED] AND SAID [REDACTED] WOULD HAVE TO RETIRE IN 1999. THE YEAR GROUP HAD ITS OPPORTUNITY FOR PROMOTION TO FLAG RANK LAST YEAR, AND [REDACTED] WAS NOT SELECTED. [REDACTED] TICKED OFF THE NAMES OF SOME OF THEIR CLASSMATES, WHICH WERE THE STUDENTS OF THE WAR COLLEGE'S HIGH MILITARY STUDIES COURSE (CAEM), THAT GROUP, WHICH GRADUATED IN NOV 96 AND WAS PROMOTED TO BG IN DEC, INCLUDES SUCH OFFICERS AS BG RAFAEL HOBACIO (RUIZ), NAVARRO, 2ND BRIGADE COMMANDER IN BARRANQUILLA (ATLANTICO); BG FERNANDO MILLAN PEREZ, 5TH BRIGADE COMMANDER IN BUCARAMANGA (SANTANDER); BG JAIME RUMBerto RAMIREZ, 7TH BRIGADE COMMANDER IN VILLAVICENCIO (META); BG GABRIEL EDUARDO CONTRERAS OCHOA, 12TH BRIGADE COMMANDER IN FLORENCIA (CAQUETA); BG ISMAEL PLATA VERA, 16TH BRIGADE COMMANDER IN Yopal (CASANARE); AND BG EDUARDO SANTOS QUINONES, 1ST MOBILE BRIGADE COMMANDER IN FUSagasuga (CUNDINAMARCA).


CAPTAIN STATIONED AT HONDA (TOLIMA) WITH THE 16TH INFANTRY BATTALION (UNDER THE 6TH BRIGADE AT IBAGUE).

COMMENTS: 1. [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED]


ADMIN
COLL: (U)
INSTR: (U)
PREP: (U)

ENCLOSURE (U) TO FOLLOW. TWO ENCLOSED.
1. COLOMBIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY JOURNAL ENTITLED “DEFENSA NACIONAL,” MAR-APR 97, 1 ORIGINAL CPY, IN COLOR, IN SPANISH, (U), 48 PGS.
2. "DEFENSA NACIONAL," MAY-JUN 97, 1 ORIGINAL CPY, IN COLOR, IN SPANISH, (U), 48 PGS.

ACQ: (U)
DISSEM: (U)
WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED S R B E T.
ORIG FROM:

DECL ON: K
END OF MESSAGE