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ENVELOPE
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ZNY
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FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEADWD/DCSA WASHINGTON DC
RUEAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC
RHLBAAK/CDrusargo MAXI FT CLAYTON PM//SOIN-IDI//
RHHJMCY/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
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RUEEAAM/HQ NORAD INTEL CEN CHEYENNE MTN AFB CO//J2V//
RUEIATQ/MPC FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
RUCBAA/AINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA//J2//
RUEATA/CIDrusaitac WASHINGTON DC//KT//
RUWMSXI/AMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//
RUQVAB/USCINCSCOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB =L
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//
RUHEDC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
RUEAA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RULKWN/MA CORTHACT DET QUANTICO VA
RUDMON/ONI SUILAND MD
RUKNIS/DIRNAVCRIMINVSERV WASHINGTON DC//NAVATAC/22//
RUEALGX/SAFE
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TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RHLBAAA/USCINCSCOC QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCJ2/SCCG//
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RULSJG/COGARD INTELCOORD CEN WASHINGTON DC
RUEJTF/CJTF FOUR/J2//
RUEJTF/CJTF FIVE/J2//
RUEABNE/COGARD LO EPIC EL PASO TX
RUEBMRA/HQS/CUSTOMS WASHDC//INTEL//
BT
CONTROLS
SECTION 01 OF 02
- SERIAL: (U) IIR
- ******* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *******
BODY
- COUNTRY: (U) COLOMBIA (CO).
SUBJ: IIR SMUGGLING TRENDS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUILA (U)

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 931116.

REQS: (U)

SOURCE:

SUMMARY: NARCO-SMUGGLING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUILA FOCUSES PRINCIPALLY ON SHIPPING OF OPIUM BASED NARCOTICS WHICH ARE CULTIVATED, MANUFACTURED, AND Refined IN THE DEPARTMENT. POPPY CULTIVATION SITES ARE CONTROLLED BY INDEPENDENT GROWERS WHO SELL THEIR PRODUCT TO MIDDLEMEN.

TEXT: 1. NARCO SMUGGLING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUILA FOCUSES PRINCIPALLY ON SHIPPING OF OPIUM BASED NARCOTICS WHICH ARE CULTIVATED, MANUFACTURED, AND Refined IN THE DEPARTMENT. THE CULTIVATION SITES ARE OWNED AND MANAGED BY LOCAL PEASANTS AND NATIVE COLOMBIANS WHO SELL THEIR PRODUCTS TO MIDDLEMEN WHO FURTHER DISTRIBUTE THE PRODUCT TO CARTEL BASED ORGANIZATIONS. UP TO THE POINT THE PRODUCT IS Refined INTO MORPHINE, THE CARTELS HAVE LITTLE TO NO ASSOCIATION WITH THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS.

2. MANAGEMENT AND EXTRACTION OF THE LATEX FROM THE POPPY PLANTS IS ACCOMPLISHED BY PEASANTS AND NATIVE COLOMBIANS LIVING IN THE HUILA HIGHLANDS; OFTEN ON GOVERNMENT OWNED LAND. PERIODICALLY AN INDEPENDENT MIDDLEMAN PASSES THROUGH THE REGION AND PURCHASES OPIUM LATEX FROM THE CULTIVATORS. THE MIDDLEMAN WILL THEN CONSOLIDATE THE OPIUM LATEX WHICH HE HAS PURCHASED FROM SEVERAL SUPPLIERS AND DELIVER THE ENTIRE LOT TO A MORPHINE PRODUCTION LABORATORY. THE METHOD OF TRANSPORTING THE OPIUM LATEX FROM THE CULTIVATION SITES TO THE MORPHINE LABORATORIES IS
ACCOMPLISHED EITHER BY PERSONALLY CARRYING THE LATEX IN A CAR OR PUBLIC TRANSPORT OR HAVING ANOTHER PERSON TRANSPORT THE PRODUCT. THE LATEX IS OFTEN TRANSPORTED BY INTER-MIXING IT WITH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE WHICH IS HAULED BY TRUCKS.

3. THE MORPHINE LABORATORIES ARE GENERALLY OWNED AS WELL BY NON-ASSOCIATED CARTEL INDIVIDUALS. ONCE THE LATEX IS REFINED INTO MORPHINE, THE PRODUCT IS ONCE AGAIN MOVED TO A HEROIN PRODUCTION LABORATORY. RARELY WILL THE MORPHINE AND HEROIN LABORATORIES BE ONE IN THE SAME. IS DONE FOR TWO REASONS: (1) THE EXPERTISE TO PRODUCE THE HEROIN CAN ONLY BE FOUND AT THE HEROIN LABS AND (2) THE MORPHINE AND HEROIN PRODUCERS MINIMIZE THEIR LOSSES IN THE EVENT EITHER ONE OF THE LAB SITES IS RAIDED. HEROIN LABORATORIES ARE LOCATED IN ANY GIVEN LOCATION.

MAJOR CARTELS BECOME INTIMATELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE OPIUM BASED NARCO-TRADE AT THE MORPHINE TO HEROIN PROCESSING STAGE. OWNERSHIP OF THE HEROIN LABORATORIES IS NOT MONOPOLIZED BY THE CARTELS BUT THEY DO BEGIN TO MAKE THEIR PRESENCE FELT AT THIS STAGE OF THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION CYCLE. ADDITIONALLY, THE HEROIN LABORATORIES ARE NOT EXCLUSIVELY LOCATED WITHIN THE HUILA DEPARTMENT.

4. ONCE THE HEROIN IS REFINED FROM THE MORPHINE, IT IS THEN MOVED FROM THE LABORATORIES TO DISTRIBUTION SITES BY SEVERAL TRANSPORTATION MEANS TO INCLUDE AIR AND VEHICLE.


THE PRESENCE OF GUERRILLAS IN THE POPPY CULTIVATION REGIONS IS FREQUENTLY A DETERRENCE IN KEEPING COLOMBIAN MILITARY OUT OF THE REGION. RETALIATORY ACTS AGAINST POPPY PLANT ERRADICATION UNITS ARE MORE INSTIGATED BY THE
GROWERS THEMSELVES AND NOT BY HIRED GUERRILLA PROTECTORS.

COMMENTS: 1. __HEROIN LABS ARE SMALL__
THUS MAKING THEM EXTREMELY MORE DIFFICULT TO DISCOVER.
ADDITIONALLY, LOCATING THE LATEX, MORPHINE, AND/OR HEROIN
IS MORE DIFFICULT THAN COCAINE FOR GOVERNMENTAL FORCES
BECAUSE IT CAN BE TRANSPORTED IN MUCH SMALLER QUANTITIES
THAN COCAINE.

ADMIN
PROJ: (U).
COLL: (U) AA.
INSTR: (U) U.S. __
PREP: (U) __
ACQ: (U) COLOMBIA, PEREIRA (931116).
DISSEM: (U) FIELD: EMBASSY AT BOGOTA.
WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED __

BT
#8085
NNNN