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ACTION INL-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-10 ACDE-00 INLB-01 AID-00 AMAD-01 ARA-01
CG-00 CTME-00 OASY-00 DINT-00 SRPP-00 EUR-01 OIGO-01
TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 L-01 ADS-00 OIC-02 OMB-01
PM-00 P-00 SP-00 TRSE-00 FMP-00 PMB-00 G-00

/020W

R 162147Z JUL 96
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0360
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USEU BRUSSELS
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 9704
NSC WASHDC
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J3 CNOD//
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
DIRONDCP WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
DEA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
FBI WASHDC
DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE
SECDEF WASHDC//OCDEPS//
NDIC JOHNSTOWN PA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY LIMA

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STATE FOR INL, ARA/AND; ARA/P; ARA/SoA; L.LEI
NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS
ONDCP FOR RICH PORTER
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

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DEA FOR OF, OFL, AO, AX
JUSTICE OR CRIM. WARREN, RICHARD AND NDDS/VAN VLIET
FBI FOR DIV. 6
BRUSSELS FOR STICKNEY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: AERIAL ERADICATION IN GUAVIARE, CAQUETA AND PUTUMAYO: THINGS HEAT UP AS DANTI AND COLAR INCREASE THE PRESSURE ON MIRAFLORES AND ENVIROS; COLAR LAUNCHES "OPERATION CONQUEST II" INTO CAQUETA AND PUTUMAYO

REF: BOGOTA 06237

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. PLEASE SEE PARAGRAPH 7.

2. SUMMARY: REFTEL REPORTED THE LAUNCHING OF "OPERATION CONQUEST II" ON JUNE 27, 1996, A JOINT ANTI-NARCOTICS (DANTI) AND COLOMBIAN ARMY (COLAR) INITIATIVE INTO MIRAFLORES AND ENVIROS. DANTI REPORTED OVER THE WEEKEND THAT POSSIBLY UP TO FOUR THOUSAND CAMPESINOS MOVED INTO MIRAFLORES WITH THE CONFIRMED PURPOSE OF BLOCKING FURTHER ERADICATION

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OF C COCA IN THE AREA. ERADICATION HAS CONTINUED AT A BRISK PACE WITH GROUND SUPPORT FROM THE COLAR. THE DANTI AND COLAR TOOK PRECAUTIONS AND SECURED THE BASE AT SAN JOSE IN THE EVENT OF AN ATTEMPTED TAKE-OVER BY NARCOTRAFFICKER SUPPORTED CAMPESINOS. THE COLAR LAUNCHED "OPERATION CONQUEST II" LAST WEEK INTO THE CAQUETA AND PUTUMAYO. THE DANTI PLANS TO LOCATE AT TRES ESQUINAS AND COMMENCE SPRAY OPERATIONS IN THAT AREA THIS WEEK. END SUMMARY.

4. ACCORDING TO DANTI AND COLAR INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, THEIR AIM IS TO TAKE OVER MIRAFLORES, EFFECTIVELY SHUTTING DOWN COCA OPERATIONS OUT OF THAT AREA. COL LEONARDO GALLEGO, DANTI COMMANDER, TOLD NAS DIRECTOR THAT HIS ELITE JUNGLE UNIT AND THE COLAR HAVE SECURED THE DANTI BASE AND STILL RETAIN CONTROL OVER THE MAIN STREET, WHICH SERVES AS THE TOWN'S AIRCRAFT RUNWAY. REFUELING OPERATIONS FOR THE THRUSHES, IN MIRAFLORES UP UNTIL JULY 12, WERE MOVED BACK TO SAN JOSE. THE HELICOPTERS ARE STILL REFUELING AT MIRAFLORES. AERIAL ERADICATION OF UNCLASSIFIED

4.


6. EARLY THE WEEK OF JULY 8, THE COLAR'S SECOND MOBILE BRIGADE LAUNCHED "OPERATION CONQUEST II" INTO CAQUETA AND PUTUMAYO DEPARTMENTS. ARMY UNITS ARE PRINCIPALLY OUT TO DESTROY CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES AND UNCLASSIFIED

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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY LIMA

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STATE FOR INL, ARA/AND; ARA/P; ARA/JOA; L.LLEI
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SUBJECT: AERIAL ERADICATION IN GUAUPIAE, CAUQUETA AND PUTUMAYO: THINGS
HEAT UP AS DANTI AND COLAR INCREASE THE PRESSURE ON MIRAFLORES AND
ENVIRONS; COLAR LAUNCHES "OPERATION CONQUEST II" INTO CAUQUETA AND
PUTUMAYO

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RUNWAYS USED BY THE NARCOTRAFFICKERS. COL GALLEGUO REPORTED THAT THE
ARMY IS ALSO SECURING LARGE COCA FIELDS. HE PLANS TO BEGIN ERADICATION
THIS WEEK. TO ACCOMPLISH ERADICATION IN THE AREA, THE DANTI WILL MOVE
TWO THRUSHES CURRENTLY STATIONED IN NEIVA AND OPERATING AGAINST OPIUM
POPPY TO TRES ESQUINAS. REGRETTABLY, BUT DUE TO INSUFFICIENT
RESOURCES, THE TRANSFER OF AIRCRAFT WILL EFFECTIVELY SHUT DOWN
OPERATIONS AGAINST POPPY FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. A THIRD THRUSH WILL BE
MOVED FROM SAN JOSE. LOGISTICS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE DANTI USING
THEIR OWN RESOURCES. BILLETING FOR PILOTS, CREWS AND AMERICAN
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INSTRUCTOR PILOT/MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE
COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE (PAC). THE FAC BASE AT LARANDIA, APPROXIMATELY 60
MILES NORTHWEST OF TRES ESQUINAS, IS AVAILABLE AS BACK-UP IN THE EVENT
BILLETING IS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE AT TRES ESQUINAS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY EFFORTS MADE TO
EXPEDITE ARRIVAL OF CASA B 212. WITH ONE OF THE TWO DC-3'S STILL NOT
FULLY OPERATIONAL, THE DANTI IS LIMITED IN ITS CAPABILITY OF MOVING
HERBICIDE, MEN AND EQUIPMENT TO THE NEW FORWARD OPERATING LOCATION AT
TRES ESQUINAS.
FRANCHETTE

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