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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ACQ-01	INL-01
	OASY-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	OIGO-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	L-01	ADS-00	DSCC-00	DRL-09	/025W		
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R 172211Z JAN 97
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4079
 INFO DEA WASHDC
 NDIC JOHNSTOWN PA
 SECDEF WASHDC//OCDEPS//
 DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
 FBI WASHDC
 DIA WASHDC
 CIA WASHDC
 DIRONDCP WASHDC
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
 NSC WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 1212
 DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
 SECDEF WASHDC
 DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC

[REDACTED] BOGOTA 000492

STATE FOR ARA/AND, INL, L/LEI
 NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS
 ONDCP FOR BILL BOZIN

[REDACTED]

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 SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
 DEA FOR OF, OFL, OC, AX
 JUSTICE FOR CRIM. WARREN, RICHARD AND NDDS/VAN VLIET
 FBI FOR CID/IRS/IRU2
 USIA FOR AR, I/GAR
 TREASURY FOR FINCEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1/17/02
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, SNAR, PINR, KJUS, KCRM, CO
 SUBJECT: POLICE GENERAL MONTENEGRO TO HEAD DAS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M. BOUTON
 DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 2002 200104364

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1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY POL/ECONOFF PEG WILLINGHAM. REASON
 1.5(D).

2. (C) COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE (CNP) COMMANDER GENERAL ROSSO JOSE SERRANO TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 17 TO SAY THAT PRESIDENT SAMPER HAD DECIDED TO NAME CNP DEPUTY COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL LUIS ENRIQUE MONTENEGRO RINCO AS THE NEW CHIEF OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY (DAS -- ROUGH EQUIVALENT OF THE FBI). SERRANO SAID THE DECISION WOULD BE ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY LATER THAT AFTERNOON.

3. (C) DEPARTING DAS DIRECTOR JAIME CABRERA BEDOYA, A FORMER VICE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, HAD LASTED ONLY SIX MONTHS ON THE JOB, HAVING BEEN NAMED TO REPLACE THE [REDACTED] MARCO TULIO GUTIERREZ. [REDACTED]

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4. (C) SERRANO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH MONTENEGRO'S APPOINTMENT, SAYING THAT WHILE HE REGRETTED LOSING HIS RIGHT HAND MAN, HE WAS HAPPY TO SEE A POLICE GENERAL RUNNING THE DAS. SERRANO DECLARED THAT THE CNP AND DAS WOULD NOW BE ALLIES [REDACTED]

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5. (C) SERRANO SAID HE WOULD MAKE MAJOR GENERAL LUIS ALBERTO PULIDO BARRIENTOS HIS DEPUTY TO REPLACE MONTENEGRO, AND WOULD BRING BACK BRIGADIER GENERAL FELIX GALLARDO ANGARITA FROM THE COLOMBIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO HELP OUT DURING THE TRANSITION.

6. (C) COMMENT: THE CNP HAS LOST AN ABLE AND GUNG-HO DEPUTY IN MONTENEGRO, WHO OFTEN SPENT HIS TIME IN THE FIELD, DRESSED IN FATIGUES, DIRECTING POLICE RAIDS WITH GUSTO AND SKILL. PULIDO WILL BE NEITHER AS FLAMBOYANT NOR HANDS-ON AS MONTENEGRO WAS. ON THE OTHER HAND, PULIDO, UNTIL NOW INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE CNP, WILL BRING INTELLECT AND MANAGERIAL SKILLS (HIS FORTE) TO THE JOB. SERRANO NOW HAS AN ALLY IN DAS, SOMETHING HE HAD LACKED UP TO NOW DURING HIS TENURE AS CHIEF OF THE CNP. THIS APPOINTMENT SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT THE OBVIOUS PRESTIGE ENJOYED BY SERRANO AT

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THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. FRECHETTE

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