SUMMARY: THREE SOON-TO-BE ARMY BRIGADIER GENERALS ARE THE TOP CANDIDATES TO BECOME THE MILITARY’S NEXT INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR (D-2). ALL HAVE CONSIDERABLE INTELLIGENCE EXPERIENCE. THE TOP OFFICER AMONG THE THREE HAS BEEN THE TARGET OF A BASELESS NGO SMEAR CAMPAIGN.

TEXT: 1. ACCORDING TO MULTIPLE INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE 20 SOON-TO-BE MILITARY ONE-STAR FLAG OFFICERS ATTENDING THE MILITARY HIGH STUDIES COURSE (“CAEM”), TAUGHT AT THE COLOMBIAN WAR COLLEGE, INDICATE THREE COLOMBIAN ARMY (COLAR) OFFICERS ARE CURRENTLY THE FRONTRUNNERS TO BECOME THE NEXT MILITARY FORCES INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR (D-2). ALTHOUGH THE CURRENT D-2, BRIGADIER GENERAL REINALDO CASTELLANOS TRUJILLO, IS WIDELY PERCEIVED TO HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB, THE ONGOING COLAR FLAG-OFFICER SHORTAGE WILL LIKELY RESULT IN HIS TRANSFER TO A HIGHER-LEVEL ASSIGNMENT LATER THIS YEAR. ALL THREE OFFICERS HAVE CONSIDERABLE INTELLIGENCE EXPERIENCE. THE BEST OF THE THREE HAS BEEN THE TARGET OF A NGO SMEAR CAMPAIGN DATING BACK 20 YEARS.

2. THE THREE COLAR COLONEL (PROMOTABLE) OFFICERS VIEWED AS THE FRONTRUNNERS TO BECOME THE NEXT D-2 ARE: JORGE PINEDA CARVAJAL, MARIO MONTOYA URIBE, JAIRO DUVAN NINO. PINEDA NINO AND MONTOYA ARE BOTH CAVALRY OFFICERS, EACH OF WHOM HAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS THE COLAR’S INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR (E-2). COL PINEDA CARVAJAL IS AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER WHO, PRIOR TO ATTENDING THE CAEM, COMMANDED THE COLAR’S 14TH BRIGADE, LOCATED IN PUERTO BERRIO (ANTIOQUIA). EACH OFFICER IS BELIEVED TO HAVE THE EXPERIENCE NECESSARY TO BECOME AN
EXCELLENT D-2. THE FINAL DECISION REGARDING WHO WILL BE
NAMED THE NEXT D-2 WILL BE MADE IN LATE-990900/EARLY-
991000. ALL 20 CAEM OFFICERS WILL COMPLETE THEIR STUDIES
EARLY, ON 991015. HOWEVER, THEY WILL NOT BE PROMOTED
UNTIL THE TRADITIONAL EARLY-DECEMBER CEREMONY.
3. ⚡ COLONEL MONTOYA IS THE MOST HIGHLY DECORATED OF
THE THREE OFFICERS, AND IS ALSO THE MOST WIDELY
RESPECTED. COL MONTOYA’S MULTIPLE SUCCESSFUL STINTS
COMMANDING COMBAT UNITS LOCATED ALONG THE TROUBLESOME
NORTHERN BORDER REGION WITH VENEZUELA (NORTE DE SANTANDER
AND ARAUCA), ARE WIDELY KNOWN. [REDACTED] HAS OBSERVED
THAT ALTHOUGH THE OTHER TWO OFFICERS BOTH HAVE
OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL REPUTATIONS, THEY SIMPLY DO NOT
COMPARE WITH THAT OF MONTOYA. MONTOYA IS WIDELY
PERCEIVED TO BE A FAVORITE OF THE COLAR COMMANDER,
GENERAL JORGE ENRIQUE ((MORA)) RANGEL.
4. ⚡ EVIDENCE STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT COL MONTOYA HAS
BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A SMEAR CAMPAIGN BY THE BELGIUM-BASED
"PAX CRISTI" HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP. LISTED IN THE NGO’S
1992 "EL TERRORISMO DE ESTADO EN COLOMBIA" ("STATE
TERRORISM IN COLOMBIA"), THEN-LTC MONTOYA IS NAMED AS A
MEMBER, FROM 1978-79, OF A SO-CALLED "PARAMILITARY
STRUCTURE KNOWN AS THE AMERICAN ANTICOMMUNIST ALLIANCE"
(ALIANZA AMERICANA ANTICOMUNISTA)—OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"TRIPLE A." CONTAINED IN ITS SIX SENTENCES OF
UNCORROBORATED ALLEGATIONS, PAX CRISTI ACCUSES THE
TRIPLE-A OF "DYNAMITING COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS, DEATH
THREATS AGAINST MEMBERS OF POLITICAL OPONENTS AND
ASSASSINATING MEMBERS AND SYMPATHIZERS OF INSURGENT
GROUPS." FURTHERMORE, THE REPORT CHARGES THAT THREE EX-
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AGENTS WHO WERE FORMER MEMBERS OF
THE "CHARRY SOLANO" INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE
BATTALION, INDICATED THAT MONTOYA WAS A MEMBER OF THE
TRIPLE A, AND TOOK PART IN THE DYNAMITING. THE REPORT
PROVIDED NO CORROBORATING EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THESE
ALLEGATIONS.
5. ⚡ COL PINEDA NINO’S MOST RECENT ASSIGNMENT WAS AS
THE CHIEF OF THE WAR COLLEGE’S STRATEGY DEPARTMENT. HE
ALSO HAS A VERY GOOD PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION, BUT IS
WIDELY PERCEIVED TO BE MORE OF AN "ACADEMIC"—ESPECIALLY
WHEN COMPARED TO MONTOYA—HIS CAVALRY COUNTERPART.
PINEDA NINO ASSISTED GENERAL MORA IN FORMULATING THE
REORGANIZATION PLAN THE COLAR IS CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTING.
6. ⚡ COL PINEDA CARVAJAL IS WIDELY KNOWN AS THE
COLAR’S FIRST "AUTHENTIC" MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRANCH
OFFICER TO ATTEND THE CAEM. UNLIKE PINEDA NINO AND
MONTOYA, PINEDA CARVAJAL IS AN INTELLIGENCE BRANCH
OFFICER. Nevertheless, Pineda Carvajal was widely viewed as having done a good job commanding the 14th (Infantry) Brigade in Puerto Berrío. Pineda Carvajal was previously assigned as Colombia's Defense Attaché to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

COMMENTS: 1. (b)(1)(B)(2)