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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ACD-17 ACDE-00 AID-01 OASY-00 DINT-01 DOE-00
EB-01 OIG-01 FBJE-00 H-01 INM-02 TEDE-00 INR-00
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FM-00 PRS-01 P-01 SNF-00 SP-00 SR-00 SS-00
STR-01 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 PMB-00 PPRM-01 DRL-09
C-00 /059W

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P 071923Z SEP 94
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3332
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
COGARD INTELCOORD/CEN WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LIMA
CIA WASHDC
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC
DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE
DIA WASHDC
DEA WASHDC
NSC WASHINGTON DC
DIRONDCP WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USCINCŞO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM\//J2/J3//

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FOR ARA, ARA/AND, INM
JUSTICE FOR CRIM/WARREN, RICHARD; NDSS/VAN VLIET
DEA FOR OF, OPL, AO, OK, DO, AX, NK
NSC FOR RICHARD FEINBERG
DIRONDCP FOR RICH FORTER
USCINCŞO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, KJUS, PGOV, PHUM, PINR, SNAR, CO
SUBJECT: GOC OVERHAULS POLICE LEADERSHIP

n/a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 27 AUG 2001 200004321

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REF: A) BOGOTA 12452; B) BOGOTA 11604; C) BOGOTA 9372

1. (U) SUMMARY: IN A PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 2,
MINISTER OF DEFENSE FERNANDO BOTERO ZEA DISCLOSED A MAJOR
OVERHAUL OF THE LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE NATIONAL POLICE.
WHILE REITERATING THE SUPPORT OF BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND
HIMSELF FOR NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL OCTAVIO
VARGAS SILVA, BOTERO ANNOUNCED THAT DEPUTY NATIONAL POLICE
DIRECTOR GENERAL FABIO CAMPOS SILVA AND DIRECTOR OF THE
NATIONAL JUDICIAL POLICE (DIJIN) GENERAL JAIRO RODRIGUEZ
QUINONEZ WOULD BE RETIRED. ACCORDING TO BOTERO, THE NEW
DEPUTY POLICE DIRECTOR WILL BE GENERAL GUILLERMO LEON
DIEITTES PEREZ, CURRENT POLICE ATTACHE AT THE COLOMBIAN
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AND THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE DIJIN
WILL BE COLONEL HUGO MARTINEZ POVEDA. MARTINEZ WAS HEAD
OF THE JOINT POLICE/ARMY TASK FORCE THAT PELLED PABLO
ESCOBAR (IN MEDELLIN LAST DECEMBER 2; HE RECENTLY HAS COME
UNDER CRITICISM FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS DURING THE HUNT FOR ESCOBAR (REF A).

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2. (U) BOTERO EMPHATICALLY DENIED THAT THE FORCED
RETIREMENT OF CAMPOS OR RODRIGUEZ HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH
THE NARCO-CASSETTES (REF C), DESPITE NUMEROUS RUMORS IN
THE PRESS. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT GENERAL CAMPOS AND
GENERAL VARGAS WERE IN SEVERE DISAGREEMENT AND THAT CAMPOS
HAD BEEN INSUBORDINATE. TWO DAYS AFTER GENERAL CAMPOS’
FORCED RETIREMENT, SEPTEMBER 5, PRESS REPORTS STATED THAT
HE WAS BEING INVESTIGATED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN AIDING A
CAPTURED NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER. A FORMAL INVESTIGATION
APPARENTLY HAS NOT BEEN OPENED, BUT THE FISCALIA HAS
REVIEWED THE TESTIMONY OF AN INFORMANT IN A PRELIMINARY
INVESTIGATION. END SUMMARY.

SHAKE-UP IN POLICE LEADERSHIP

4. (U) DEFENSE MINISTER FERNANDO BOTERO ZEA ANNOUNCED A
MAJOR SHAKE-UP WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL
POLICE DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 2. TWO
HIGH-RANKING GENERALS, DEPUTY NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR
GENERAL FABIO CAMPOS SILVA AND NATIONAL JUDICIAL POLICE
DIRECTOR (DIJIN) GENERAL JAIRO RODRIGUEZ QUINONEZ HAVE
BEEN FORCED TO RETIRE. THEY WILL BE REPLACED BY GENERAL
GUILLERMO LEON DIETTES PEREZ, CURRENT POLICE ATTACHE AT
THE COLOMBIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AS DEPUTY NATIONAL
POLICE DIRECTOR AND COLONEL HUGO MARTINEZ POVEDA AS
DIRECTOR OF THE DJIN. GENERAL OCTAVIO VARGAS SILVA, HEAD
OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, WAS TO REMAIN IN OFFICE, BOTERO
SAID, BECAUSE BOTH PRESIDENT SAMPER AND HE HAD FULL
CONFIDENCE IN HIS ABILITY TO HEAD THE ORGANIZATION.

5. (U) ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THERE WILL BE A TOTAL
OF 92 CHANGES WITHIN THE UPPER RANKS OF THE POLICE. AMONG
THOSE CHANGES ARE REPLACEMENT OF THE POLICE CHIEFS IN
BOGOTA, MEDELLIN AND CALI. BOTERO EXPLAINED THAT THE
"TOTAL RESTRUCTURING" HAD BECOME NECESSARY IN ORDER TO
MEET THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE OF PROVIDING BETTER
PROTECTION FOR THE CITIZENRY AND BETTER MORAL,
ORGANIZATION AND EFFICIENCY WITHIN THE POLICE.

INSUBORDINATION AND INEFFICIENCY

6. (U) BOTERO DENIED THAT THE FORCED RETIREMENT OF
GENERALS CAMPOS AND RODRIGUEZ HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH
EITHER THE INFILTRATION OF THE POLICE IN CALI (REF B) OR
THE NARCO-CASSETTES (REF C). HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT
GENERAL CAMPOS HAD BEEN INSUBORDINATE IN HIS DEALINGS WITH
GENERAL VARGAS. FURTHER, BOTERO STATED, THIS
INSUBORDINATION HAD PRECIPITATED THE CHANGES AND HAD
ADVANCED THE GOVERNMENT'S TIMETABLE FOR ACCOMPLISHING THE
RESTRUCTURING. WITH REGARD TO GENERAL RODRIGUEZ, BOTERO

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INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
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DIRONDNP WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USCINCOSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM/J2/J3/

FOR ARA, ARA/AND, INM
JUSTICE FOR CRIM/WARREN, RICHARD; NDDS/VAN VLIET
DEA FOR OF, OPL, AO, OK, DO, AX, NK
NSC FOR RICHARD FEINBERG
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USCINCISO ALSO FOR POLAD

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TAGS: PREL, KJUS, FGOV, PHUM, PINR, SNAR, CO
SUBJECT: GOC OVERHAULS POLICE LEADERSHIP

TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE GOC HAD BEEN STUDYING THE POLICE
STRUCTURE AND HAD BECOME CONCERNED THAT THE DIJIN WAS NOT
FUNCTIONING WELL AS THE INTELLIGENCE ARM OF THE POLICE.

MARTINEZ'S HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS

7. (C) RODRIGUEZ'S REPLACEMENT, ACCORDING TO BOTERO, IS
AN EXPERT IN INTELLIGENCE BECAUSE OF HIS EXPERIENCE AS THE HEAD OF THE SEARCH BLOCK (BLOQUE DE BUSQUEDA) THAT PURSUED PABLO ESCOBAR. THE RECENT ATTORNEY GENERAL’S (PROCURADOR) REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE BLOQUE DE BUSQUEDA (REFTEL), NOTING THAT THERE WAS A HIGH INCIDENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS RESULTING FROM ITS SEARCHES AND INTERROGATIONS. COLONEL MARTINEZ WAS NOT MENTIONED BY NAME IN THE REPORT, BUT AS HEAD OF THE UNIT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DIRECTING THE ACTIONS OF THE BLOQUE. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN ALLEGATIONS THAT THE BLOQUE (AND MARTINEZ) WAS CLOSELY TIED WITH "LOS PEPES" (A GROUP COMMITTED TO KILLING PABLO ESCOBAR) BECAUSE OF THEIR COMMON GOAL.

CAMPOS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE FISCALIA?

8. (U) ON SEPTEMBER 5, ONLY TWO DAYS AFTER GENERAL CAMPOS WAS FORCED TO RETIRE FROM THE NATIONAL POLICE, A TELEVISION NEWS STORY REPORTED THAT HE WAS BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE FISCALIA. THE FISCALIA’S INVESTIGATION, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, CENTERED AROUND ALLEGATIONS MADE BY A FACELESS WITNESS THAT CAMPOS HAD ASSISTED IN RELEASING A CAPTURED SHIPMENT OF COCAINE AND HAD SIGNED A RELEASE ORDER FOR A NORTH COAST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER. SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS INDICATE THAT THE FISCALIA IS REVIEWING THAT INFORMATION IN A PRELIMINARY, NOT FORMAL, INVESTIGATION.

9. (U) CAMPOS, IN STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS, DENIED THE ALLEGATIONS, NOTING THAT THE SHIPMENT OF COCAINE HAD BEEN BURNED BEFORE WITNESSES FROM THE FISCALIA. CAMPOS ALSO STATED THAT THE DRUG TRAFFICKER IN QUESTION WAS STILL CONFINED IN A JAIL IN BARRANQUILLA. FINALLY, CAMPOS ALLEGED THAT THE POLICE HAD INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION THAT INDICATED THAT THE ALLEGATIONS WERE PART OF A SMEAR CAMPAIGN AGAINST RESPECTED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT WAS BEING ORCHESTRATED BY THE CALI CARTEL.

AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH BOTERO
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**ACTION ARA-01**

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**FM AMBASSADY BOGOTA**

**TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3334**

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**AMBASSADY QUITO**

**AMBASSADY CARACAS**
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USCINCSP QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//J2/J3//

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

FOR ARA, ARA/ANJ, INM
JUSTICE FOR CRIM/WARREN, RICHARD; NDDS/VAN VLIET
DEA FOR OF, OFL, AO, OK, DO, AX, NK
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