HEADER

R 2319072 FEB 99
FM
TO RUEKDA/DIA WASHINGTON DC/

BT

CONTROLS

CONFIDENTIAL

SERIAL: (U)

TEXT
COUNTRY: (U) COLOMBIA (CO).
//IPSP: (U)  
COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJ: FARC GUERRILLA COMMANDERS AND PARAMILITARY GROUP MEMBERS COMMENT ON THEIR ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES (U)
WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. THIS REPORT IS CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL.
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 981209.  
REQS: (U) ____________  
SOURCE: (C) ____________

SUMMARY: [C] DURING AN INTERVIEW BY A [C] FARC COMMANDERS COMMENTED ON SALARIES, RECRUITMENT, MILITARY OPERATIONS, AND THE NEGATIVE IMAGE THEY HAVE ACQUIRED FROM KIDNAPPINGS. PARAMILITARY GROUP MEMBERS ALSO INTERVIEWED COMMENTED ON INCREASED OPERATIONS, CONTROL OF MINERAL RICH AREAS, AND POPPY CULTIVATION. TEXT: (U)

1. [C] PAY AND EMPLOYMENT. WITH REGARD TO SALARIES, FUERZAS ARMADAS REVOLUCIONARIAS DE COLOMBIA (FARC) GUERRILLA COMMANDERS DO NOT PAY THEIR SOLDIERS AT ALL. SOLDIERS ARE GIVEN MONEY ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS. FOR EXAMPLE, IF A SOLDIER WANTS TO GO ON LEAVE TO VISIT HIS FAMILY FOR APPROXIMATELY 10 DAYS, THE SOLDIER MAY BE GIVEN 100.00 U.S. DOLLARS FOR EXPENSES FOR THE DURATION OF THE LEAVE. [C]—THIS WAS VERIFIED BY SEVERAL GUERRILLA COMMANDERS AS WELL AS BY THE SOLDIERS. A GUERRILLA COMMANDER ALSO SAID THAT WHEN GUERRILLAS GO TO A TOWN TO BUY SUPPLIES, ONLY ONE MEMBER IS GIVEN MONEY TO PAY THE SHOPKEEPER. GUERRILLA COMMANDERS WERE ASKED WHY TROOPS JOIN THE GUERRILLA ORGANIZATIONS, AND THEY SAID IT WAS BECAUSE THEY HAD NO OTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYMENT, AND ALSO ADDED THAT IT WAS A WAY OF LIFE. UNLIKE THE FARC GUERRILLAS, PARAMILITARY GROUP MEMBERS ARE PAID A REGULAR SALARY.


4. [C] PARAMILITARY GROUPS. PARAMILITARY GROUP MEMBERS SAID THEY WERE STEPPING UP THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE PARAMILITARIES ARE CONTESTING THE SOUTHERN BOLIVAR DEPARTMENT

[REDACTED]

7. (O) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INTERVIEWS WITH FARC AND PARAMILITARY GROUP MEMBERS WERE MADE THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES.
8. (U) THE COLOMBIAN ARMED FORCES HAVE NOT ACTIVELY PERSECUTED
PARAMILITARY GROUP MEMBERS BECAUSE THEY SEE THEM AS ALLIES IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS, THEIR COMMON ENEMY.

9. (U)

10. (C)

11. (U)