

SECRET

RELEASED IN FULL

PAGE 01 ~~BOGOTA 13650~~ 061952Z  
ACTION MCT-04

|      |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| INFO | LOG-00  | ADS-00  | AID-00  | INR-05  | SS-00   | CIAE-00 | DODE-00 |
|      | NSCE-00 | ARA-00  | NSAE-00 | SSO-00  | SY-05   | L-02    | AMAD-01 |
|      | TRSE-00 | PM-05   | PA-02   | INRE-00 | CA-02   | A-02    | USSS-00 |
|      | SYE-00  | USIE-00 | DEAE-00 | FBIE-00 | FAIM-01 | SLPD-01 | /030 W  |

-----125016 061953Z /38

O 061949Z NOV-85 ZFF4  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3443  
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BOGOTA 13650

TERREP

PLEASE PASS TO DEA HQS WASHDC ALONG WITH REFTELS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PTER, CO  
SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACK ON COLOMBIAN PALACE OF  
- JUSTICE

REF: A. BOGOTA 13647  
- B. BOGOTA 13648

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ~~EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT FIVE GOC SWAT TEAMS  
(TWO POLICE, TWO ARMY, ONE AIR FORCE) HAVE BEEN DIS-  
PATCHED TO PALACE OF JUSTICE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ORDERS  
ARE TO USE ALL NECESSARY FORCE TO RETAKE BUILDING.~~

3. WE HAVE TAKEN ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS HERE. ALL  
EMPLOYEES (AMERICAN AND COLOMBIAN) HAVE BEEN ADVISED NOT  
NOT TO LEAVE EMBASSY FOR THE TIME BEING. ALL  
DEPENDENTS ARE BEING ADVISED TO REMAIN AT HOME.

SECRET

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PARTICIPANTS IN DEA CONFERENCE AT BOGOTA PLAZA HAVE  
BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REMAIN IN HOTEL; MOBILE PATROLS  
IN AREA HAVE BEEN REINFORCED.  
GILLESPIE

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION MCT-04

BOGOTA 13671 062230Z

RELEASED IN FULL

|      |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| INFO | LOG-00  | COPY-01 | ADS-00  | AID-00  | INR-05  | SS-00   | CIAE-00 |
|      | DODE-00 | NSCE-00 | ARA-00  | NSAE-00 | SSO-00  | SY-05   | L-02    |
|      | AMAD-01 | TRSE-00 | PM-05   | PA-02   | INRE-00 | CA-02   | A-02    |
|      | USSS-00 | SYE-00  | USIE-00 | FBIE-00 | FAIM-01 | SLPD-01 | /031 W  |

-----134550 062240Z /70/38

O 062122Z NOV 85 ZFF4  
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3455  
 INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS IMMEDIATE  
 CONTADORA COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 13671

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAS 2 & 3)

TERREP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PTER, CO  
 SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACK ON COLOMBIAN  
 - PALACE OF JUSTICE

REF: (A) BOGOTA 13647  
 (B) BOGOTA 13648  
 (C) BOGOTA 13650

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. AS OF 15:30 LOCAL TIME, THE INCIDENT AT THE PALACE OF JUSTICE IS CONTINUING. OFFICIAL CONFIRMATIONS ON ANY POINT ARE FEW; THE GOC AUTHORITIES HAVE MUCH ON THEIR MINDS. FROM WHAT WE HAVE HEARD, PLUS MONITORING RADIOS, IT APPEARS THAT GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE GAINING THE UPPER HAND. THE FIRE AT THE PALACE IS NOT OUT,  
CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT DOES NOT SEEM TO BE GETTING WORSE. REPORTEDLY, FIRES IN THE ARCHIVES AND COURT LIBRARY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SMOKE. GOC FORCES ARE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE PALACE, AND ARE ESCORTING SOME OF THE NON-COMBATANTS TO SAFETY. AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE IS STILL HEARD OCCASIONALLY. SURVIVING M-19 PERSONNEL SEEM TO BE MAINLY ON THE FOURTH FLOOR. AMBULANCES ARE

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EVACUATING WOUNDED.

3. GOC ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN SHUTTling REINFORCEMENTS TO THE AREA BY GROUND VEHICLES AND HELICOPTER. ~~AN EYE-WITNESS TOLD EMBASSY THAT NINE HELICOPTERS LOADS OF TROOPS LANDED ON THE ROOF OF THE JUSTICE MINISTRY, FOUR BLOCKS FROM THE PALACE.~~

4. UNOFFICIAL RADIO REPORTS STATE THAT ONE POLICE OFFICER AND THREE OTHER CIVILIANS ARE DEAD, AND TWO GUERRILLAS. A SEPARATE RADIO REPORT STATES THAT AS MANY AS 15-18 M-19 GUERRILLAS MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED.

5. THE MAIN IMPONDERABLE AT THIS POINT IS WHETHER THE M-19 PERSONNEL HAVE TAKEN HOSTAGES. GOC PERSONNEL INSIDE THE BUILDING HAVE CONTINUED TALKING TO BOGOTA RADIO STATIONS: THEY SAY NO ONE IS HOSTAGE TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE. BUT AN UNCONFIRMED RADIO REPORT EARLIER CLAIMED THAT FOUR PERSONS FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE (RANK UNSTATED) HAD BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE. A RADIO REPORT STATED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLOMBIAN SENATE HAD SPOKEN TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT, WHO WAS AN M-19 HOSTAGE AND WAS ATTEMPTING TO NEGOTIATE WITH HIS CAPTORS.

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6. UPDATE: AT 15:40 LOCAL, WE HEARD FROM THE GOC D-2, GENERAL GOMEZ, THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT IS A HOSTAGE, IN THE HANDS OF A SMALL FORCE OF SURVIVING GUERRILLAS, ON THE FOURTH FLOOR. A HOSTAGE RESCUE OPERATION USING GOC COMMANDOS IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ANY MOMENT.

7. FURTHER UPDATES: A 1600 NEWS BULLETIN REPORTS THAT ARMED FORCES HAVE NOW SECURED BASEMENT, PLUS FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS OF PALACE, THUS CONFINING GUERRILLAS TO FOURTH FLOOR.

8. EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED NOTICE FROM GOC THAT THEY ARE FACING A METAL DOOR ON THE FOURTH FLOOR.

9. FYI: WE ARE REPEATING REFTELS TO ALL ADDRESSEES. GILLESPIE

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