

UNCLASSIFIED

PTQ0547

RELEASED IN FULL

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ0547

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 11584 01 OF 03 092355Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	ACQ-01	INL-01	OASY-00
	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	IM-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-01
	ADS-00	MMP-00	SCT-00	AIDC-01	SSO-00	ASDS-01	DSCC-00
	DRL-04	/021W					

-----04068E 092355Z /69

O 092232Z DEC 97
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0295
 INFO DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
 SECDEF WASHDC
 DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 3586
 NSC WASHDC
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL
 DIRONDCP WASHDC
 CIA WASHDC
 DIA WASHDC
 FBI WASHDC
 DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD

SECDEF WASHDC//OCDEPS//
 NDIC JOHNSTOWN PA
 DEA WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY MADRID
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY LIMA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 11584 01 OF 03 092355Z
 AMEMBASSY PANAMA
 AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
 DATE/CASE ID: 23 JAN 2008 200603866

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BOGOTA 011584

STATE FOR ARA/AND, DRL, INL, L/LEI
NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS
ONDCP FOR JANET CRIST
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: 10/31/07
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, ASEC, PINS, PGOV, PREL, CO
SUBJECT: "JAIME BATEMAN" LIVES: AND KIDNAPS COLOMBIAN JOURNALISTS

CLASSIFIED BY POLOFF MICHAEL J. FITZPATRICK. REASONS 1.5(B&D).

1. (C) SUMMARY: THE "JAIME BATEMAN CAYON MOVEMENT" HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DECEMBER 4 KIDNAPPINGS OF THE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY AND A SENIOR RADIO JOURNALIST. THE JBC MOVEMENT, A SMALL SPLINTER GROUP OF THE LONG-DEMOBILIZED M-19 GUERRILLA MOVEMENT, PROMISES TO RELEASE THE TWO IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS -- WITH A PEACE PROPOSAL FOR PRESIDENT SAMPER. AFTER A LONG QUIESCENCE, THIS ACTION SIGNALS THE RETURN OF THE JBC TO THE POLITICAL STAGE -- PERHAPS JUST IN TIME TO NEGOTIATE ARMISTICE WITH A LAME-DUCK PRESIDENT ANXIOUS TO SIGN A PEACE ACCORD WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 11584 01 OF 03 092355Z
ANYONE WILLING TO SIT DOWN WITH HIM. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) EVER SINCE WILLIAM PARRA, PRESS SECRETARY FOR PRESIDENT SAMPER, AND LUIS EDUARDO MALDONADO, POLITICAL EDITOR OF THE RCN RADIO NETWORK, LEFT THE PRESIDENTIAL "NARINO" PALACE DECEMBER 4 FOR A MID-DAY BITE TO EAT, THEIR WHEREABOUTS AND THE REASONS BEHIND THEIR DISAPPEARANCE HAVE BEEN UNKNOWN. ANONYMOUS PHONE CALLS TO VARIOUS MEDIA OUTLETS INITIALLY CLAIMED "THE EXTRADITABLES" WERE RESPONSIBLE. SUNDAY'S "LONDON OBSERVER" CLAIMED THAT UNSPECIFIED PARAMILITARIES WERE INSTEAD TO BLAME.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

"JAIME BATEMAN LIVES"
=====

3. (U) BUT NOW, THE MYSTERY AS TO WHO KIDNAPPED TWO OF COLOMBIA'S MOST PROMINENT NEWSMEN APPEARS TO BE RESOLVED. THE LONG-DORMANT "JAIME BATEMAN CAYON MOVEMENT" SENT A VIDEOTAPE TO A TELEVISION NEWS SHOW DECEMBER 8, CLAIMING THE JOURNALISTS HAD BEEN "INVITED" TO VISIT THE GUERRILLA GROUP'S BASE CAMPS. THE "JBC MOVEMENT", A DISSIDENT FACTION OF THE DEMOBILIZED M-19 MOVEMENT, SAID THE TWO DETAINEES WILL BE RELEASED SHORTLY, "SAFE AND SOUND," AND CARRYING A PEACE PROPOSAL TO PRESIDENT SAMPER.

4. (U) ON THE VIDEOTAPE, TWO ARMED AND HOODED MEN READ THE GROUP'S COMMUNIQUE BEFORE A BACKDROP OF THE BANNER OF THE JBC MOVEMENT AND UNDER A LARGE PORTRAIT OF SIMON BOLIVAR. "IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OPERATION 'HEROES AND MARTYRS OF THE PALACE OF JUSTICE,' THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF COMANDOS AMALIA SOSSA AND NICOLAS ORTIZ FOGLIA OF THE COMANDANTE ALONSO COLUMN," THE GUERRILLAS CLAIM TO HAVE "INVITED" THE TWO JOURNALISTS TO "OUR ENCAMPMENTS, SO AS TO COMMUNICATE TO THE NATION THE URGENT CALL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BOGOTA 11584 01 OF 03 092355Z
TO CONSTRUCT DEMOCRATIC MECHANISMS TO RESOLVE THE ACUTE CRISIS WE ARE LIVING THROUGH." THE GUERRILLA SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THE GUERRILLAS WOULD INSIST ON "A GRAND NATIONAL EFFORT TO INFORM THE NATION OF THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PALACE OF JUSTICE."

5. (U) PROSECUTOR GENERAL ALFONSO GOMEZ MENDEZ PUBLICLY DECRIED THE GUERRILLAS' METHODS OF ABDUCTING PEOPLE OFF THE STREET JUST TO DELIVER A MISSIVE TO THE GOVERNMENT. "IN THIS DAY AND AGE OF THE INTERNET, E-MAIL AND THE TELEPHONE," HE SAID, "THERE ARE A THOUSAND WAYS OF SENDING A MESSAGE WITHOUT RESORTING TO KIDNAPPING." PRESIDENT SAMPER HAS BEEN EVEN MORE HARSH IN HIS COMMENTS TOWARDS THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN HIS PERSONAL PRESS AIDE.

BUT WHO THE HECK IS JAIME BATEMAN?
=====

6. (U) JAIME BATEMAN CAYON WAS A FOUNDER, AND "MAXIMO JEFE," OF THE COLOMBIA'S M-19 GUERRILLA MOVEMENT, WHICH SURGED TO PROMINENCE IN THE 1970S AND 1980S. EXPELLED FROM THE COMMUNIST

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PARTY AND THE FARC, BATEMAN'S STRATEGY WAS, IN SHORT, "THE URBAN SPECTACULAR". EMPLOYING A MODEL FIRST PERFECTED BY THE NICARAGUAN SANDINISTAS (AND MOST RECENTLY EXERCISED BY PERU'S

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNNPTQ0548

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ0548

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 11584 02 OF 03 092355Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	ACQ-01	INL-01	OASY-00
	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	IM-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-01
	ADS-00	MMP-00	SCT-00	AIDC-01	SSO-00	ASDS-01	DSCC-00
	DRL-04	/021W					

-----040698 092356Z /69

O 092232Z DEC 97
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0296
 INFO DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
 SECDEF WASHDC
 DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 3587
 NSC WASHDC
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL
 DIRONDCP WASHDC
 CIA WASHDC
 DIA WASHDC
 FBI WASHDC

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD

SECDEF WASHDC//OCDEPS//
NDIC JOHNSTOWN PA
DEA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 11584 02 OF 03 092355Z
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BOGOTA 011584

STATE FOR ARA/AND, DRL, INL, L/LEI
NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS
ONDCP FOR JANET CRIST
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: 10/31/07

TAGS: PTER, PHUM, ASEC, PINS, PGOV, PREL, CO

SUBJECT: "JAIME BATEMAN" LIVES: AND KIDNAPS COLOMBIAN JOURNALISTS

MRTA), THE M-19 TOOK OVER THE NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE DOMINICAN AMBASSADOR IN FEBRUARY 1980, WITH DOZENS OF HIGH-RANKING HOSTAGES (INCLUDING U.S. AMBASSADOR DIEGO ASCENCIO) IN ATTENDANCE. IN NOVEMBER 1985, THE M-19 HAD ITS GREATEST PROPAGANDA SUCCESS -- AND MILITARY DEFEAT -- IN THE TAKEOVER OF THE NATIONAL PALACE OF JUSTICE. MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED CIVILIANS, INCLUDING THE MAJORITY OF THE SUPREME COURT, PLUS DOZENS OF M-19 COMANDOS DIED AFTER THE ARMY'S 13TH BRIGADE RETOOK THE PALACE WHILE REDUCING IT TO A BLOODY INFERNO. (THE PALACE IS STILL UNDER RECONSTRUCTION.) BATEMAN HIMSELF NEVER

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

LIVED TO SEE THE PALACE TAKEOVER; HE DIED IN A 1983 PLANE CRASH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 11584 02 OF 03 092355Z
WHILE EN ROUTE TO A GUERRILLA SUMMIT IN PANAMA.

9. (U) IN 1990, THE M-19 SIGNED A PEACE AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT, ACCEPTED AMNESTY AND FORMED THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE/M-19 (AD/M-19) POLITICAL PARTY. SOME 250 M-19 GUERRILLA LEADERS CAST THEIR VOTES FOR PEACE, AND THEIR TROOPS FOLLOWED. TWO OF THE ONLY THREE "NO" VOTES, HOWEVER, CAME FROM YOUNG GUERRILLA COMMANDERS "ALONSO" AND "CARMELO" -- WHO THEN RETREATED TO THE SLUMS OF CALI AND THE MOUNTAINS OF VALLE DE CAUCA (CORE M-19 CENTERS OF SUPPORT) TO REBUILD A "JUNIOR M-19". THE JBC MOVEMENT FIRST GAINED NOTRIETY WITH THE 1994 KIDNAPPING OF THEN-SENATOR REGINA BETANCUR DE LISKA AND A SUBSEQUENT KIDNAPPING OF A NOTED TELEVISION VARIETY SHOW HOST, ALFONSO LIZARASO. CURRENTLY, THE JBC GROUP, WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED ARMED MEMBERS, IS THOUGHT TO HAVE TWO TO FOUR MILITARY FRONTS OPERATING IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF CAUCA AND VALLE DEL CAUCA. THE GROUP'S NATIONAL POLITICAL IMPACT, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NIL.

WHY NOW? AND WHAT MIGHT IT MEAN?
=====

10. (C) THE JBC MOVEMENT APPEARS TO BE JUMPING ON THE PEACE TRAIN. AMIDST ALL THE TALK -- HOWEVER STERILE -- OF THE FARC, THE ELN, THE EPL, AND EVEN PARAMILITARY GROUPS SITTING DOWN TO NEGOTIATE PEACE WITH THE COLOMBIAN STATE, THE JBC SURELY DOES NOT WANT TO BE FORGOTTEN IN THE SHUFFLE. WHILE THE MILITARY POWER OF THE M-19 HAS LONG SINCE WANED, AND THE POLITICAL PULL OF THE AD/M-19 HAS SIMILARLY BEEN ECLIPSED (IT CURRENTLY ONLY HAS ONE MEMBER IN THE 165-PERSONS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND NO SENATORS), THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF RECENT REMINDERS HERE OF THE M-19'S FORMER STRENGTH AND STANDING.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04

BOGOTA 11584 02 OF 03 092355Z

11. (U) UNDER A NEW LAW, FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOVERNMENT APPROVED IN JUNE COMPENSATION TO THE FAMILIES OF CAPTURED M-19 GUERRILLAS KILLED AFTER A 1985 ARMY OPERATION IN SOUTH BOGOTA. IN SEPTEMBER, THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF STATE RULED THE GOVERNMENT MUST ALSO COMPENSATE THE FAMILIES OF ELEVEN CIVILIAN CAFETERIA WORKERS AND OF M-19 GUERRILLA IRMA FRANCO; THE DOZEN WERE TORTURED AND KILLED BY THE ARMY'S 20TH BRIGADE -- AFTER THE ENTIRE NATION WATCHED THEM, ON LIVE TV, WALK OUT OF THE BURNING PALACE OF JUSTICE IN ARMY CUSTODY. FINALLY, THE FISCALIA ANNOUNCED IN NOVEMBER THAT THE BODIES OF MORE THAN 100 PALACE OF JUSTICE VICTIMS -- DUMPED IN A MASS GRAVE SOUTH OF BOGOTA -- WILL BE EXHUMED IN JANUARY AND SUBJECTED TO DNA TESTING. THE PURPOSE: TO PERMIT INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATION, PROPER REBURIAL AND CLOSURE FOR THE FAMILIES. THAT MASS EXHUMATION CAN BE EXPECTED TO PROMPT IN BOGOTA A COLLECTIVE RELIVING -- AND RENEWED DEBATE -- OF THE M-19'S AUDACIOUS TAKEOVER, THE ARMY'S CRUDE RESPONSE AND THE GOVERNMENT'S SUBSEQUENT COVER-UP OF WHAT HAPPENED AND HOW.

12. (C) IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE JBC MOVEMENT MAY ATTEMPT TO TRADE ON ALL THIS RENEWED M-19 INTEREST IN EXCHANGE FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO COME IN FROM THE COLD, WRAPPED IN THE RAGGED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNNPTQ0549

CONFIDENTIAL

PTQ0549

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01
ACTION ARA-01

BOGOTA 11584 03 OF 03 092356Z

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	ACQ-01	INL-01	OASY-00
	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	IM-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-01
	ADS-00	MMP-00	SCT-00	AIDC-01	SSO-00	ASDS-01	DSCC-00
	DRL-04	/021W					

-----04069C 092356Z /69

O 092232Z DEC 97
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0297
 INFO DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
 SECDEF WASHDC
 DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 3588
 NSC WASHDC
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL
 DIRONDCP WASHDC
 CIA WASHDC
 DIA WASHDC
 FBI WASHDC
 DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD

SECDEF WASHDC//OCDEPS//
 NDIC JOHNSTOWN PA
 DEA WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY MADRID
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY LIMA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02
 AMEMBASSY PANAMA
 AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
 USINT HAVANA

BOGOTA 11584 03 OF 03 092356Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 BOGOTA 011584

STATE FOR ARA/AND, DRL, INL, L/LEI
 NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS
 ONDCP FOR JANET CRIST

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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: 10/31/07

TAGS: PTER, PHUM, ASEC, PINS, PGOV, PREL, CO

SUBJECT: "JAIME BATEMAN" LIVES: AND KIDNAPS COLOMBIAN JOURNALISTS

REMNANTS OF THE M-19 MANTLE. INDEED, WHILE THE NATION'S LARGER GUERRILLA GROUPS HAVE REFUSED TO SIT DOWN WITH THE WEAKENED AND DISCREDITED SAMPER GOVERNMENT, THE WEAKENED AND DISCREDITED JBC MOVEMENT JUST MIGHT SEE A POLITICAL AGREEMENT IN THE CLOSING MONTHS OF THE ADMINISTRATION AS SERVING BOTH THEIR AND SAMPER'S INTERESTS -- AND THUS POSSIBLE. IN ANY EVENT, THE NATION'S MANY OTHER OUTLAW GROUPS WILL BE WATCHING KEENLY TO SEE HOW THE SAMPER GOVERNMENT HANDLES THIS CASE.

GARZA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03

BOGOTA 11584 03 OF 03 092356Z

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED