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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: SNAR, MASS, CO  
SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF U.S. COUNTERNARCOTICS ASSISTANCE

1. CLASSIFIED BY PATRICIA L. HALL, DIRECTOR, INL/LP,  
REASONS 1.5(B) & (D).

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2. (C) DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED THAT GENERAL MCCAFFREY'S STATEMENTS IN COLOMBIA HAVE BEEN MISINTERPRETED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA, PARTICULARLY COLAR COMMANDER GENERAL BONETT, AS AUTHORIZING THE WIDESPREAD USE OF U.S. COUNTERNARCOTICS ASSISTANCE FOR COUNTERINSURGENCY PURPOSES. THE EMBASSY SHOULD MEET AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE CONVENIENCE WITH GENERAL BONETT AND THE DEFENSE

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MINISTER TO CORRECT ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND REITERATE THAT ASSISTANCE TO THE MILITARY IS GOVERNED BY THE AUGUST 1 END USE MONITORING AGREEMENT. EMBASSY MAY DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS.

3. (U) TALKING POINTS

-- AS GENERAL MCCAFFREY STATED, WE ARE NOT TAKING PART, NOR DO WE INTEND TO TAKE PART, IN COUNTER-GUERRILLA OPERATIONS.

-- OUR ASSISTANCE TO COLOMBIA IS STRICTLY FOR COUNTERNARCOTICS PURPOSES. THIS IS CLEARLY SPELLED OUT IN THE TERMS OF THE AUGUST 1ST MONITORING AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS THE BASIS FOR RESUMING AID TO THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY.

-- WE PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE, AND TO THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE MILITARY WHICH ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN COUNTERNARCOTICS EFFORTS. WE DO NOT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO COLOMBIA FOR COUNTERINSURGENCY.

-- HOWEVER, GENERAL MCCAFFREY HAS POINTED OUT THAT  
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 THERE IS A DEFINITE, AND GROWING, LINK BETWEEN THE GUERRILLAS AND THE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS IN COLOMBIA.

-- ALTHOUGH NOT ALL GUERRILLA FRONTS ARE INVOLVED IN THE DRUG TRADE, NOR ARE THE GUERRILLAS INVOLVED IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE DRUG TRADE, WE HAVE SEEN INCREASING EVIDENCE THAT THEY PROVIDE SECURITY FOR FIELDS AND LABS, COLLECTING MONEY FROM THE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS FOR THESE SERVICES, AND THAT AT TIMES THEY TRANSPORT ILLEGAL NARCOTICS.

-- USG ASSISTANCE MAY BE USED TO CONFRONT ANYONE, INCLUDING THE GUERRILLAS, WHO IS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING.

-- U.S. COUNTERNARCOTICS ASSISTANCE IS NOT TO BE USED IN ANY WAY INCONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THE AUGUST 1 END USE MONITORING AGREEMENT.  
 ALBRIGHT

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