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B1, 1.5(D)

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-10 ACDE-00 INLB-01 AID-00 ACQ-01 INL-01
OASY-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 EB-00 OIGO-01 TEDE-00 INR-00
L-01 ADS-00 ASDS-01 DSCC-00 DRL-09 /026W
-----ADEA90 092007Z /38

O 091940Z APR 97
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5752
INFO NSC WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 1999
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
DEA WASHDC
NDIC JOHNSTOWN PA
SECDEF WASHDC//OCDEPS//
DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
FBI WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DIRONDCP WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

SECRET SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 003330

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NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS
ONDCP FOR JANET CRIST

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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: 04/07/07
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, PGOV, SNAR, PINR, KJUS, KCRM, CO

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DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)

FOIA/PA	Mandatory Review
() Release	() Declassify
(<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) Exclso	() Declassify in Part
() Dcny	() Class. Ret/Renew

Exemptions B1
ARP Action Cert. [Signature] Date 04/18/03

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SUBJECT: MOD ALLEGED TO HAVE AUTHORIZED ILLEGAL ARMS SALES TO
CONVIVIRS AND NARCOTRAFFICKERS

REF: BOGOTA 1319

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY S.K. ABEYTA. REASON: 1.5(D).

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SUMMARY

2. (S) ALLEGATIONS THAT MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS
AUTHORIZED ILLEGAL ARMS SALES TO CONVIVIRS WITH LINKS TO
PARAMILITARIES AND NARCOTRAFFICKERS WERE RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN
THE BOGOTA-BASED "ALTERNATIVA" MAGAZINE. [POST'S CONTACTS] B-1
HAVE LENT A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE OF
CREDIBILITY TO THE ALLEGATIONS. EMBASSY INTENDS TO EXAMINE
FURTHER DOCUMENTATION OF THESE ALLEGATIONS. IN THE MEANTIME, THE
AMBASSADOR WILL EXPRESS TO THE GOC THE USG CONCERNS WHICH THE
PUBLISHED INFORMATION RAISES. END SUMMARY.

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CONVIVIRS ARMED WITH NARCOFUNDS

3. (S) POL AND DAO OFFICERS HAVE ON TWO OCCASIONS MET WITH
INDIVIDUALS WHO CLAIM THAT THE CONVIVIR (RURAL SECURITY AND
VIGILANCE COOPERATIVES), ARE IN MANY CASES HEAVILY ARMED AND
SUBJECT TO VIRTUALLY NO GOVERNMENT CONTROL, CONTRARY TO GOC
PROPAGANDA ON THE GROUPS. THE INDIVIDUALS
] STRUCK EMBOFFS AS BEING CREDIBLE. B-1

THE "SUPERINTENDENCY OF VIGILANCE AND PRIVATE
SECURITY," HEADED UNTIL APRIL 4 BY HERMAN ARIAS GAVIRIA,
CHARACTERIZED BY "ALTERNATIVA" AS THE "CONVIVIR CZAR." X

4. (S) THE ARTICLE CONTAINS A LIST OF 60 CONVIVIRS AUTHORIZED
BY ARIAS IN 1996 TO BUY A WIDE RANGE OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS LEGALLY
RESTRICTED FOR EXCLUSIVE USE BY THE ARMED FORCES AND POLICE. THE
LIST INCLUDES SUBMACHINEGUNS, 9MM PISTOLS, MINI-UZIS, RIFLES,
MUNITIONS AND OTHER RESTRICTED USE ITEMS B-1

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(BY MARCH 1997, APPROXIMATELY 500
CONVIVIRS HAVE BEEN FORMED SINCE THEIR INCEPTION IN 1994,
ACCORDING TO "ALTERNATIVA." THAT IS TWICE THE NUMBER OF
CONVIVIRS BELIEVED TO HAVE FORMED BY JUNE/JULY OF 1996)

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ACTION ARA-01

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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AID-00	ACQ-01	INL-01
	OASY-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	OIGO-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	L-01	ADS-00	DCP-01	ASDS-01	DSCC-00	DRL-09	/027W

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O 091940Z APR 97
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5753
INFO NSC WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 2000
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
DEA WASHDC
NDIC JOHNSTOWN PA
SECDEF WASHDC//OCDEPS//
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BOGOTA 003330

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IN ADDITION,
BOGOTA DAILY "EL ESPECTADOR" RECENTLY PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE ON THE

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THREE TYPES OF CONVIVIR, ARMED IN VARYING DEGREES, THAT HAVE EVOLVED BEYOND THE ORIGINAL CONCEPT OF UNARMED CITIZENS PROVIDING INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT TO GOVERNMENT FORCES. []

7. (S) [] THE "ALTERNATIVA" ARTICLE ARGUE THAT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS PROVIDING A LEGAL COVER FOR PARAMILITARY GROUPS []

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THE AMBASSADOR INTENDS TO QUERY THE NEW MINISTER OF DEFENSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HE IS SWORN IN AS TO GOC PLANS TO INVESTIGATE THE PRESENT ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT BY THE SUPERINTENDENCY. []

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POST WILL BASE INQUIRIES ON INFORMATION THAT HAS APPEARED IN THE PRESS.
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