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INQUIRE=DOC33D
ITEM NO=00671208
ENVELOPE
CDSN = CFS026 MCN = 96038/23152 TOR = 960381604
RTTCZYUW RUEKJCS7697 0381604-CCCC--RUEALGX.
ZNY CCCCC

P B1, B2

HEADER
R 071604Z FEB 96
FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEKJSA/STOC
RUEADTS/USDP:DTSA
RUEKMDT/USDP:CCC
RUEALGX/SAFE
R 071523Z FEB 96
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6442
INFO RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 9695
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 9540
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0963
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
RULSSGG/NAVJUSTSCOL NEWPORT RI
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0007
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 1480
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 9920

BT

CONTROLS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 001161

STATE FOR DRL/BA:RABBY, AF/S:DGRIFFITHS, S/CPR, ARA/AND

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2/5/2006

BODY

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, PINR, KJUS, CVIS, MARR, OFDP, OPRC, CO, SF
SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON COLOMBIAN []

B1 (d)
B1 &

REFS: A) [] B) 95 BOGOTA 10524 C) 95 BOGOTA 13544

1. CLASSIFIED BY POL/MILOFF DAVID C. WOLFE; REASON 1.5 (B) AND (E).

2. (C) REF A REQUESTED DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON RESPONDING TO THE INQUIRY BY [] ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND NARCOTICS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST []

B1 (b)(1) (d)
B1 &

[] COL. (R) ALFONSO PLAZAS VEGA.
THIS CABLE IS MEANT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO HELP FORMULATE THE RESPONSE.

3. (C) PLAZAS, A RETIRED COLOMBIAN ARMY OFFICER WHO CAMPAIGNED

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Classify as (X) Extend as (C) Downgrade to
Date 4/15/04 Declassify on 2/5/11 Reason 1.4 (b)(1)

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Release (X) Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 4/15/04 Exemption (b)(1)
(b)(2)

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FOR PRESIDENT ERNESTO SAMPER IN 1994, CAME TO RECENT PUBLIC ATTENTION ON JUNE 6, 1995. A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE MENTIONED THAT PLAZAS, WHO HAD BEEN NAMED COLOMBIAN CONSUL TO HAMBURG, GERMANY, HAD BEEN REJECTED BY THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. [

ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CONTAINED IN THE BOOK, "STATE TERRORISM IN COLOMBIA," WRITTEN BY THE DUTCH-BASED HUMAN RIGHTS NGO "PAX CHRISTI." THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT THEN TRIED TO ASSIGN PLAZAS AS CONSUL TO SAN FRANCISCO. [

DEPARTMENT CONCURRED THAT THE GOV BE INFORMALLY ASKED TO WITHDRAW PLAZAS' NOMINATION, [

4. (U) THERE ARE FOUR BASIC ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST PLAZAS THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED:

- PLAZAS WAS A CENTRAL FIGURE IN ORGANIZING THE PARAMILITARY GROUP "DEATH TO KIDNAPPERS" (MAS) IN COLOMBIA'S EASTERN PLAINS IN 1981-82 (NOTE: ACCORDING TO AMERICAS WATCH, MAS WAS FORMED IN COOPERATION WITH THE OCHOA BROTHERS OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL TO FIGHT GUERRILLA KIDNAPPERS. END NOTE).
- IN 1985, ACCORDING TO A RETIRED OFFICER AND EX-PARAMILITARY MEMBER, PLAZAS CREATED AND DIRECTED A PARAMILITARY GROUP IN CUNDINAMARCA (PROVINCE WHERE BOGOTA IS LOCATED) SPONSORED BY MEDELLIN CARTEL KINGPIN GONZALO RODRIGUEZ GACHA.
- IN NOVEMBER 1985, AS PART OF THE COMMAND THAT STORMED THE JUSTICE PALACE WHERE M-19 GUERRILLAS HELD OVER 100 PERSONS HOSTAGE, PLAZAS WAS HEARD ORDERING THE "DISAPPEARANCE" OF M-19 MEMBER IRMA FRANCO PINEDA, ONE OF THE WOMEN ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BUILDING BEFORE THE FINAL ASSAULT. ANOTHER HUMAN RIGHTS BOOK, "EL CAMINO DE LA NIEBLA I," SUGGESTS THAT PLAZAS ALSO ORDERED THE "DISAPPEARANCE" OF GLORIA ANZOLA, A CIVILIAN LAWYER WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN THE BUILDING.
- ON AUGUST 15, 1986, PLAZAS ORDERED THE ARREST OF ALVARO FALLA IN BOGOTA. ACCORDING TO THE MILITARY, FALLA JUMPED OUT OF A MOVING MILITARY VEHICLE IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE AND DROWNED IN THE BOGOTA RIVER.

5. (C) NONE OF THE ABOVE ALLEGATIONS WERE EVER INVESTIGATED BY THE AUTHORITIES -- A COMMON PROBLEM DURING THE 1980'S IN COLOMBIA - - AND THERE IS NO WAY TO VERIFY THE TRUTH OF ANY OF THEM. PLAZAS VEHEMENTLY DENIES THE CHARGES, SAYING THEY ARE CONSPIRACY TO SLANDER HIM BY FORMER M-19 GUERRILLAS WHO NEVER FORGAVE HIM FOR HIS ROLE IN THE STORMING OF THE JUSTICE PALACE (REF C). PLAZAS SAID HE WOULD FILE A CIVIL COMPLAINT FOR SLANDER AGAINST THE AUTHORS OF "STATE TERRORISM."

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6. (C) PLAZAS HAS AND EMBASSY HAS NEVER HEARD
ANY ALLEGATIONS OF HIS BEING INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING.

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ADMIN

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