

ADP893

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E/38

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ACTION INM-02

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 ARA-01 CG-00 CTME-00
C-01 OASY-00 OIGO-01 FBIE-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-19.
L-03 ADS-00 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PM-02 P-01
SP-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 FMP-00 CORE-00 /052W
-----CE7030 222331Z /38

R 222319Z JUN 93
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8920
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
DOSAIRWING PATRICK AFB FL
CIA WASHDC
DEA WASHDC
DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC//USDP//ISA/DSAA/DEP&S//
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC//NSC//
DIRONDCP WASHDC//OR//
DIA WASHDC
JOINTSTAFF WASHDC//J3CNOD/J5WHEM//
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCJ2/SCJ3/SCJ5/SCDC//
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCFA/SOCSOUTH//

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DECLASSIFY
DECLASSIFY
PART
Non-Responsive Info
Assumptions
is

IS/FRC/CDR f6 Date: 2/28/96
MR Cases Only:
EC Citations:
To authority to:
() CLASSIFY as () S or () C OADR
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C OADR

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CDR4THPSYOPG FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-F//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 09507 .

STATE FOR INM AND ARA
CIA FOR DCI/CNC
DEA FOR OC, OF, OI, OM
DIA FOR DIR-3C4, DOF-5, DIR-5SA, JSI, JTIC, DAT-CN

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: MORE GROUND FIRE DISABLES TWO CNP AIRCRAFT IN
OPIUM POPPY ERADICATION CAMPAIGN

1. SUMMARY. AFTER A BRIEF RESPITE FROM GROUND FIRE
WHICH DAMAGED FIVE COLOMBIA NATIONAL POLICE (CNP)

AIRCRAFT AND WOUNDED ONE PILOT IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF MAY, FARC GUERRILLAS AMBUSHED TWO MORE AIRCRAFT ON 18 JUNE, WOUNDING TWO PILOTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON 18 JUNE AT APPROXIMATELY 08:30, SNIPERS BELIEVED TO BELONG TO THE FUERZAS ARMADAS REVOLUCIONARIAS DE COLOMBIA (FARC) GUERRILLA FACTION FIRED ON AND HIT TWO CNP AIRCRAFT. THE TWO AIRCRAFT, A UH-1H HELICOPTER AND A T-65 TURBO THRUSH SPRAY PLANE, WERE CONDUCTING OPIUM POPPY FUMIGATION OPERATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE TOWN OF PLANADAS IN SOUTHERN TOLIMA DEPARTMENT. (NOTE: THIS IS THE SAME AREA WHERE FIVE CNP AIRCRAFT WERE HIT BY GROUND FIRE BETWEEN 18-31 MAY). THE UH-1H (TAIL NUMBER PNC 159) WAS HIT FOUR TIMES: ONCE IN THE ROTOR, TAIL BOOM, FLOOR OF THE MAIN CABIN, AND COCKPIT. THE

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CO-PILOT WAS WOUNDED IN THE LEG WHEN THE ROUND ENTERED THE COCKPIT. THE T-65 (TAIL NUMBER PNC 274) WAS HIT ONCE. A ROUND PASSING THROUGH THE CANOPY STRUCK THE PILOT IN THE FACE. HE SUSTAINED INJURIES IN THE NOSE AND EYE.

3. THE 18 JUNE AMBUSH OF TWO CNP AIRCRAFT CAME JUST TWO AND A HALF WEEKS AFTER A SERIES OF FIVE AMBUSHES IN THE SAME AREA FROM 18-31 MAY. CNP HELICOPTERS AND SPRAY PLANES WERE FIRED UPON ON FIVE OCCASSIONS LAST MONTH WHILE CONDUCTING OPIUM POPPY FUMIGATION OPERATIONS. DURING FOUR OF THESE ATTACKS, FIVE AIRCRAFT WERE DAMAGED BY GROUND FIRE. CNP HELICOPTERS RETURNED EXTENSIVE MACHINE-GUN FIRE ON THE AMBUSHERS' POSITION IN THE FIFTH ATTACK WITHOUT SUFFERING ANY DAMAGE TO THE AIRCRAFT.

A. 18 MAY. A T-65 TURBO THRUSH SPRAY PLANE (PNC 275) TOOK THREE HITS, TWO IN THE WING AND ONE THROUGH THE COCKPIT FLOOR; WHILE FUMIGATING POPPY FIELDS LOCATED BETWEEN THE VILLAGES OF RIO NEGRO AND GAITANIA. THE PILOT WAS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED IN THE THROAT BY METAL FRAGMENTATION.

B. 21 MAY. A HUGHES 500 HELICOPTER (PNC 103) WAS HIT TWICE, ONCE UNDER THE PILOT'S ARMORED SEAT AND ONCE IN THE SKID. A T-65 TURBO THRUSH (PNC 274) WAS ALSO HIT TWICE, ONCE IN THE ELEVATOR (TAIL) AND ONCE IN THE HERBICIDE HOPPER (TANK). THE TWO AIRCRAFT WERE

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 93BOGOTA009507

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	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PM-02	P-01
	SP-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	FMP-00	CORE-00	/052W	

-----CE7043 222332Z /38

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DOSAIRWING PATRICK AFB FL
CIA WASHDC
DEA WASHDC
DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC//USDP//ISA/DSAA/DEP&S//
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC//NSC//
DIRONDCP WASHDC//OR//
DIA WASHDC
JOINTSTAFF WASHDC//J3CNOD/J5WHEM//
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCJ2/SCJ3/SCJ5/SCDC//
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCFA/SOCSOUTH//

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SUBJECT: MORE GROUND FIRE DISABLES TWO CNP AIRCRAFT IN
OPIUM POPPY ERADICATION CAMPAIGN

CONDUCTING SPRAY OPERATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE TOWN
OF CHAPARAL, DEPARTMENT OF TOLIMA, AT N 03-51 W 75-34.

C. 27 MAY. WHILE PREPARING TO SPRAY IN THE VICINITY OF CHAPARAL AT N 03-40 W 75-42, CNP AIRCRAFT CAME UNDER FIRE AGAIN, BUT WERE NOT HIT. PILOTS OF THE GROUP'S TWO HELICOPTERS, A UH-1H AND A HUGHES 500, IDENTIFIED THE SOURCE OF THE GROUND FIRE AS COMING FROM A CABIN. THE TWO HELOS MOVED INTO POSITION AND EMPLOYED THEIR M-60 MACHINEGUNS, FIRING A TOTAL OF 1,100 ROUNDS INTO THE CABIN. NO GROUND FIRE WAS RETURNED.

D. 28 MAY. WHILE OVERFLYING THE AREA OF THE 27 MAY SHOOTING INCIDENT, A CNP UH-1H HELICOPTER (PNC 145) WAS HIT BY GROUND FIRE, TAKING ONE ROUND IN THE MAIN ROTOR BLADE. THIS SINGLE ROUND CAUSED USD 37,000 IN DAMAGE.

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E. 31 MAY. AT AN UNSPECIFIED LOCATION, A T-65 TURBO THRUSH (PNC 274) WAS HIT TWICE IN ONE WING.

4. THE HIGH CONCENTRATION OF GROUND FIRE AGAINST ERADICATION AIRCRAFT DURING A TWO WEEK PERIOD INDICATES A COORDINATED CAMPAIGN AGAINST POPPY FUMIGATION. PRIOR TO 18 MAY, CNP ERADICATION AIRCRAFT HAD ONLY BEEN FIRED UPON THREE TIMES IN OVER A YEAR. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GROUND FIRE AND MULTIPLE HITS ON AIRCRAFT INDICATES THE AMBUSHERS ARE USING AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. SINCE COMMON POPPY GROWERS ARE PEASANT FARMERS WORKING INDIVIDUALLY, THE CONCERTED ATTACK ON ERADICATION AIRCRAFT SUGGESTS SOME OTHER, MORE ORGANIZED FORCE IS RESPONSIBLE.

5. THE CNP ANTI-NARCOTICS POLICE DIRECTOR IS PLANNING TO INITIATE HELICOPTER-TRANSPORTED GROUND RAIDS AGAINST SELECTED SITES IN THE AREA AS A DETERRENT TO FUTURE AMBUSHES. DEPARTMENTAL POLICE COMMANDERS PLAN TO PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN THESE OPERATIONS. BUSBY##

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