

INQUIRE=DOC24D  
ITEM NO=00277461

ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX678 MCN = 93327/39436 TOR = 933272347  
RTTCZYUW RUEKJCS9983 3272347- [REDACTED] -RUEALGX.

ZNY [REDACTED]

HEADER

R 232347Z NOV 93  
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC  
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC  
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC  
RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC  
RHLBAAK/CDRUSARSO MAXI FT CLAYTON PM//SOIN-IDI//  
RHHJMCY/JICPAC HONOLULU HI  
RUWMBKA/12AINS DAVIS MONTHAN AFB AZ  
RUCEAAM/HQ NORAD INTEL CEN CHEYENNE MTN AFB CO//J2V//  
RUETIAQ/MPC FT GEORGE G MEADE MD  
RUCBSAA/CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA//J2//  
RUWSMXI/AMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//  
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEOFFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//  
RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RULKQAN/MARCORINTACT DET QUANTICO VA  
RUDMONI/ONI SUITLAND MD  
RULKNIS/DIRNAVCRIMINSERV WASHINGTON DC//NAVATAC/22//  
RUEALGX/SAFE  
R 232131Z NOV 93

[REDACTED]  
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
INFO RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCJ2//  
RUWMEGA/USCINCSO HOWARD AFB PM//J3-DDN//  
RULSJGA/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHDC  
RUANJTF/CJTF FOUR//J2//  
RUWANGD/CJTF FIVE//J2//  
RUEABNE/COGARD LO EPIC EL PASO TX  
RUEBMRA/US CUSTOMS SERVICE WASHINGTON DC//INTEL//

BT

CONTROLS

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 02 [REDACTED]

SERIAL: (U) IIR [REDACTED]

/\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*/

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) COLOMBIA (CO).

SUBJ: IIR [REDACTED] NEIVA - DRUG SPRAYING OPERATIONS  
(U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT  
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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DOI: (U) 931116.

REQS: (U) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUMMARY: [REDACTED] DRUG SPRAYING OPERATIONS IN THE AREA OF  
NEIVA [REDACTED] ARE HAVING A POSITIVE  
EFFECT ON CN OPERATIONS. FLIGHTS ARE OFTEN SUBJECT TO  
RANDOM GROUND FIRE FROM GUERRILLA AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.

TEXT: 1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MOST FIELDS TARGETED FOR SPRAYING WERE  
LOCATED IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA [REDACTED]  
TO THE WEST OF THE AIRPORT AT NEIVA.

[REDACTED] AERIAL SPRAYING WAS THE PREFERRED  
METHOD OF ERADICATION BECAUSE IT DID NOT EXPOSE SOLDIERS  
TO AMBUSHES FROM THE VARIOUS GUERRILLA UNITS IN THE AREA  
WHO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR THE DRUG CULTIVATION  
(PRIMARILY POPPY PLANTS FOR HEROIN PRODUCTION).

2. [REDACTED] SPRAYING OPERATIONS USING

[REDACTED] HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL.

[REDACTED] SPECIFIC NUMBERS OF HECTARES  
OF DRUG PLANTS DESTROYED THROUGH SPRAYING WERE PROVIDED.

3. [REDACTED] FLIGHTS IN THE AREA

[REDACTED]

NOFORN

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OF POPPY FIELDS ARE OFTEN SUBJECT TO RANDOM GROUND FIRE FROM AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IT WAS PURE LUCK (OR LACK OF IT FROM THE PILOT'S PERSPECTIVE) THAT LED TO THEIR COMING UNDER FIRE. A FEW INJURIES TO CREW AND ESCORT PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN REPORTED ALONG WITH SOME DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT. HOSTILE FIRE HAS NOT STOPPED FUMIGATION, HOWEVER, FOR ANY PROLONGED PERIOD. OVER A DOZEN BULLET STRIKES ON FUMIGATION/ESCORT AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN REPORTED SO FAR THIS YEAR. THE EFFECT OF THIS EXPOSURE TO GROUND FIRE ON MORALE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MINIMAL TO DATE.

3. [REDACTED] NARCO ELEMENTS WERE BEGINNING TO SURFACE LEGAL COMPLAINTS FROM VARIOUS SMALL FARMERS IN THE AREA. THESE COMPLAINTS ALLEGED THAT THE DRUG SPRAYING OPERATIONS WERE DAMAGING OTHER LEGAL CROPS IN THE AREA OF THE SPRAYING. SEVERAL OF THESE COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN FORWARDED/SPONSORED BY VARIOUS "GREEN" ORGANIZATIONS. [REDACTED]

COMMENTS: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN CONTRAST WITH OTHER COLOMBIAN FLIGHT OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE WAS HARDLY EVER THE CAUSE FOR ABORTED MISSIONS. MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, IF A MISSION WAS CANCELLED, IT WAS DUE TO MARGINAL WEATHER CONDITIONS IN THE AREA OF SPRAYING. SINCE MOST OF THE TARGETED FIELDS ARE IN THE MOUNTAINS, IT WAS RATHER COMMON TO HAVE CLOUDS OR FOG IN THE AREA RESTRICT SPRAYING OPERATIONS.

2. [REDACTED]

"IF YOU HAD ALL THE MONEY YOU NEEDED, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO BUY?" THE OFFICIALS' RESPONSE WAS MORE SPRAYING AIRCRAFT. EVEN THOUGH THEY ADMITTED THAT ACTUALLY VISITING THE SITE OF NARCOTICS CULTIVATION WAS THE MOST EFFICIENT METHOD OF IDENTIFYING AND DESTROYING ILLEGAL DRUG CULTIVATION AREAS, IT WAS ALSO THE MOST DANGEROUS. THESE POLICE OFFICIALS CLEARLY DID NOT LIKE TO GO OUT ON PATROLS TO FIND AND DESTROY THESE DRUG PRODUCING PLANTS. BUYING MORE AIRCRAFT WAS THE EASIEST WAY TO CONTINUE THE ERADICATION PROGRAM WITHOUT FACING A WELL-ARMED NARCO-GUERRILLA ENEMY.

[REDACTED]

ADMIN

PROJ: (U).

COLL: (U) AA (94011):

INSTR: (U) U.S. [REDACTED]

PREP: (U) [REDACTED]

ACQ: (U) COLOMBIA, NEIVA (931116).

DISSEM: (U) FIELD: EMBASSY AT BOGOTA.

WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BT

#9984

NNNN

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]