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Case Number: 200202961

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	OASY-00	EB-01
	H-01	INM-02	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	L-01	ADS-00
	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00
	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	DTC-01	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09
	G-00	/059W					

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R 212335Z OCT 94
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4528
INFO CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
NAVJUSTSCOL NEWPORT RI

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STATE ARA/AND (WELLS); DRL (A/S SHATTUCK); DRL/AAA (CURTIN)
STATE PASS FOR USAID AA/LAC, LAC/DI, LAC/SAM
AND POL/SP LGARBER
STATE PASS FOR USOAS (QUILTER)
DOD FOR RSA, DNHR, JCS/JS WHEM
SOUTHCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, MASS, CO

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SUBJ: MOD INVITES A/S SHATTUCK TO VISIT COLOMBIA

REF: A) STATE 278938 B) BOGOTA 14978 (NOTAL)
C) BOGOTA 15072

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT
2. POST APPRECIATES THE DETAILED READOUT OF THE OCTOBER 6 BOTERO/SHATTUCK MEETING AS REPORTED REF A, AS WELL AS

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THE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER SEVERAL COMMENTS ON THE POINTS
RAISED DURING THE MEETING.

NAMECHECKS

3. WE WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY THE MOD'S ASSERTION THAT THE
VETTING OF COLOMBIAN POLICE AND MILITARY CANDIDATES FOR
U.S.-SPONSORED TRAINING HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. WHILE WE WERE DELIGHTED TO SEE
BOTERO GO ON RECORD THAT THIS IS THE AGREED UPON PROCEDURE
(AND TAKE CREDIT FOR HAVING DEvised IT), THE FACT IS THAT
NO CONCRETE TRANSFER OF VETTING AUTHORITY HAS YET TAKEN
PLACE. THE AMBASSADOR HAD VERBALLY PROPOSED THE IDEA TO
BOTERO PRIOR TO HIS WASHINGTON TRIP, BUT HE DID NOT HAND
THE LETTER FLESHING OUT THIS PROPOSAL UNTIL OCTOBER 12,
AFTER BOTERO'S RETURN TO BOGOTA. AS OF OCTOBER 20 THE
EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO WRITTEN REPLY, ALTHOUGH BOTERO
TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE EMBASSY COULD DISCUSS THE
DETAILS WITH HIS STAFF. IN LIGHT OF BOTERO'S COMMENTS,
EMBASSY AND MLGRP OFFICIALS WILL NOW APPROACH WORKING
CONTACTS IN BOTH THE MOD AND THE PROCURADURIA IN ORDER TO

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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EFFECT THIS PROCEDURAL CHANGE.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND MILITARY PROMOTIONS

4. BOTERO STATED TO A/S SHATTUCK THAT "THERE IS A GROWING
AWARENESS THAT COMMITTING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES WILL BLOCK
AN OFFICER'S PATH TO PROMOTION." RECENT USDAO REPORTING
(REF B) SUGGESTS THAT BOTERO'S CLAIM MAY BE SOMEWHAT
UNFOUNDED AND REFLECT "WISHFUL THINKING" ON HIS AND THE
ADMINISTRATION'S BEHALF. WHILE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO
SUGGEST THAT SAMPER, BOTERO AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL CIVILIAN
OFFICIALS ARE NOT PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE
ARMED FORCES' HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE AND ATTACKING
IMPUNITY, THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID OF THE UNIFORMED
LEADERSHIP OF THE MOD.

5. AS REPORTED IN REF B, THERE STILL EXIST STRONG
INDICATORS TO SUGGEST THAT DESPITE THE GENERALS' LIP
SERVICE TO THE PROGRESSIVE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES OF THE

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SAMPER ADMINISTRATION, "BODY COUNT" MENTALITIES PERSIST, ESPECIALLY AMONG COLOMBIAN ARMY OFFICERS. FIELD COMMANDERS WHO CANNOT SHOW TRACK RECORDS OF AGGRESSIVE ANTI-GUERRILLA ACTIVITY (WHEREIN THE MAJORITY OF THE MILITARY'S HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES OCCUR) DISADVANTAGE THEMSELVES AT PROMOTION TIME. THE SUCCESSFUL DERAILING OF SERIOUS MILITARY JUDICIAL REFORM BY A CLIQUE OF "OLD GUARD" GENERALS AND THE DISAPPOINTING RESULTS OF THE FORCED DISAPPEARANCE LEGISLATION ARE TWO EXAMPLES OF HOW, DESPITE BOTERO'S OPTIMISTIC CLAIMS, THE MILITARY HAS BEEN ABLE TO FORESTALL SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS ON THE

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[REDACTED]

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IMPUNITY QUESTION.

A/S SHATTUCK VISIT TO COLOMBIA

6. POST WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THE MOD'S INVITATION TO MR. SHATTUCK TO VISIT COLOMBIA AND CONSIDERS THAT A VISIT FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICIAL WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT WAY TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE GOC AND THE U.S. CONGRESS THE IMPORTANCE THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCORDS THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH COLOMBIA. POST RECOMMENDS THAT SUCH A VISIT TAKE PLACE IN MID TO LATE JANUARY FOR SEVERAL REASONS.

7. FIRST, WE WANT TO GIVE THE SAMPER ADMINISTRATION A CHANCE TO UNVEIL ITS "PEACE PROCESS" PROPOSAL FOR THE GUERRILLAS, SLATED TO BECOME PUBLIC IN MID-NOVEMBER. THIS PLAN WILL HAVE OBVIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE A CHANCE TO REVIEW IT THOROUGHLY. SECONDLY, BY JANUARY THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD HAVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRUJILLO COMMISSION (REF C) AND A VISIT BY THE ASS'T SEC'Y AT THAT TIME COULD BE MOST USEFUL IN PRESSURING THE SAMPER ADMINISTRATION TO PROSECUTE THE MILITARY PERPETRATORS OF THOSE CRIMES.

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[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 02 BOGOTA 015358

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LASTLY, BOGOTA IS NOT IMMUNE TO THE TRADITIONAL LATIN
AMERICAN "CHRISTMAS PARALYSIS" WHICH RUNS FROM
MID-DECEMBER TO MID-JANUARY.

8. ADDITIONALLY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO BEAR IN MIND THAT
BOTERO HAS ASSUMED A LEADING ROLE IN WHAT WE PERCEIVE TO
BE A GENUINE EFFORT ON BEHALF OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO
IMPROVE ITS MILITARY'S HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE. WHILE
BOTERO'S RHETORIC WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND LOCAL NGOS MAY,
AT TIMES, REFLECT MORE A SALES PITCH THAN A CONSIDERED

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PLAN OF ATTACK, HE HAS NONETHELESS BEEN ENGAGED IN THE ISSUE SINCE TAKING OFFICE. ALREADY HE HAS PUBLICLY TAKEN THE GENERALS TO TASK ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS FOR VOICING OPINIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES THAT ARE AT ODDS WITH ADMINISTRATION POLICIES. BOTERO IS QUITE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS LOOKING TO THE SAMPER ADMINISTRATION FOR CONCRETE PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, SPECIFICALLY ON THE IMPUNITY QUESTION, AND THAT SIMPLY SAYING THE RIGHT THINGS WILL NO LONGER SUFFICE. A JANUARY MEETING WILL AFFORD BOTH BOTERO AND SAMPER A REASONABLE TIME FRAME IN WHICH TO BEGIN TO EFFECT SOME OF THESE CHANGES. THE MEETING WILL ALSO DOVETAIL NICELY WITH THE PUBLICATION OF THE 1994 COLOMBIA COUNTRY REPORT WHICH SHOULD SERVE AS A USEFUL FOCUS OF DISCUSSION FOR THE ASS'T SECRETARY'S VISIT.

9. ONCE AGAIN, POST APPRECIATES THE SUPPORT FROM DRL ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN COLOMBIA AND LOOKS FORWARD TO A PRODUCTIVE VISIT. FRECHETTE

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