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ACTION INL-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7835

INFO DEA HOS WASHDC

DOSAIRWING PATRICK AFB FL

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

USEU BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

CIA WASHDC//CNC//

COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHDC

USCINCSO HOWARD AFB PM//DDN/SCJ2//

US CUSTOMS SERVICE WASHDC

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCJ2/SCJ3/SCJ5/SCDC//

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCFA/SOCSOUTH//

NDIC JOHNSTOWN PA

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DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 04 BOGOTA 007271

STATE FOR INL, INL/LP-SANCHEZ-CARLO, AND ARA, INL PASS TO USDA FOR ERIC ROSENQUIST

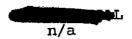
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS DATE/CASE ID: 22 MAY 2001 200004409

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NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS
JUSTICE FOR CRIM. WARREN RICHARD AND NDDS/VAN VLIET
CUSTOMS FOR LA OPS, INTELLIGENCE
DIA FOR DIR-3C4, DOF-5, DIR-5SA, JSI, JTIC, DAT-CN
USEU FOR STICKNEY,
ONDCP FOR JANET CRIST

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/30/00 TAGS: SNAR, CO SUBJECT: SUCCESSFUL VISIT BY ONDCP AND INL STAFF

1. CLASSIFIED BY NAS DIRECTOR LUIS G. MORENO. REASON

1.5(D).

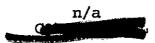
2. (U) SUMMARY: OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY (ONDCP) STAFF MEMBER MAJOR AND OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS (INL) OFFICER MCGARITY RECEIVED A FULL FOUR DAY TOUR OF THE ILLICIT CROP ERADICATION PROGRAM IN COLOMBIA DURING JULY 22-25. BOOKENDED BY BRIEFINGS IN BOGOTA, VISITING OFFICERS OBSERVED PREVIOUSLY FUMIGATED COCA AND OPIUM POPPY FIELDS, WITNESSED THE AFRIAL HERBICIDE SPRAYING OF BOTH

TAL

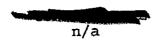
PAGE 03 BOGOTA 07271 01 OF 04 311321Z CROPS, AND SURVEYED THE OPERATIONAL FACILITIES IN SAN JOSE DE GUAVIARE, MIRAFLORES, NEIVA, AND MARIQUITA. THE GROUP ALSO VISITED GOC ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (PLANTE) AND HAD EXTENSIVE IN HOUSE BRIEFINGS, INCLUDING AN EXIT BRIEF WITH THE DCM AND AMBASSADOR. END SUMMARY.

IN HOUSE VISIT AND PLANTE

3. (U) ONDCP AND INL MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND IN A COUNTRY TEAM MEETING ON THE MORNING OF JULY 22 BEFORE A PROGRAM REVIEW AT THE OFFICES OF PLANTE, THE GOC'S ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. ALICIA FERNANDA QUIJANO, PLANTE'S CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION, EXPRESSED THAT PLANTE INTENDS TO SERVE A ROLE AS A COMPLEMENT TO THE INTERDICTION PROGRAMS AND THAT IT OPERATES THROUGH A METHODOLOGY OF POINTS OF INTERVENTION WHERE THERE EXIST A HIGH INCIDENCE OF ILLEGAL CROPS. IN THIS WAY, PLANTE IS TO SERVE AS THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMPONENT OF THE GOC'S ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY, STRIVING TO PROVIDE A TRUE CARROT TO A TARGET GROUP OF 35,000 FAMILIES WHO HAVE FIRST SHOWN



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THEIR VOLITION BY ERADICATING ENTIRELY ANY ILLEGAL CROPS.

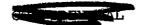
SAN JOSE DEL GUAVIARE

4. (C) THE TEAM FLEW WITH THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE (CNP) TO THE CNP ANTINARCOTICS BASE AT SAN JOSE DE GUAVIARE, WHERE THEY HELICOPTERED OVER TO VISIT THE COLOMBIAN MARINE BASE AT BARRANCON. THERE THEY RECEIVED A TOUR OF THE SPECIAL FORCES TRAINING FACILITIES AND A VERBAL DEFENSE OF THE CONVIVIR PUBLIC DEFENSE FORCES.

CONTRACT

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THE OFFICIAL WHO PROVIDED THE TOUR EXPLAINED THAT THE
MISSION OF THE CONVIVIR IS AKIN TO THAT OF THE HIRED
SHERIFFS OR THE CALVARY OF THE WILD WEST. IN AREAS THAT
SUFFER FROM A LACK OF STATE PRESENCE, THE CONVIVIR
PROVIDES A LEGITIMATE MEANS OF DEFENSE FROM THE EXTERNAL
AGGRESSION OF GUERRILLA FORCES. OUR HOST EMPHASIZED
THAT, UNLIKE OLD FASHIONED SHERIFFS, THE CONVIVIR IS
PERFECTLY CONTROLLED AND CARRIES ONLY REGISTERED ARMS OF
DEFENSE AND RADIOS WITH A DUTY SIMPLY TO INFORM AND NOT
TO FIRE.

5. (C) BACK AT THE CNP BASE IN SAN JOSE DE GUAVIARE THE TEAM WAS BRIEFED BY THE MAJOR GALEANO, COMMANDER OF THE EASTERN ZONE OF THE ANTINARCOTICS POLICE. THE COMMANDER ILLUSTRATED THAT THERE WERE 30 THOUSAND HECTARES OF COCA GROWN IN THIS ZONE AND THAT ONE OF THE GREATEST PROBLEMS WAS THAT OF THE PRECURSOR CHEMICALS THAT ENTER THE ZONE VIA POROUS BORDERS WITH VENEZUELA, BRAZIL, PERU, AND



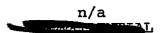
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USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCJ2/SCJ3/SCJ5/SCDC//

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCFA/SOCSOUTH//

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DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
NSC WASHDC
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STATE FOR INL, INL/LP-SANCHEZ-CARLO, AND ARA, INL PASS TO USDA FOR ERIC ROSENQUIST
NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS
JUSTICE FOR CRIM. WARREN RICHARD AND NDDS/VAN VLIET
CUSTOMS FOR LA OPS, INTELLIGENCE
DIA FOR DIR-3C4, DOF-5, DIR-5SA, JSI, JTIC, DAT-CN
USEU FOR STICKNEY,
ONDCP FOR JANET CRIST

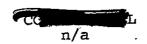
E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/30/00

TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: SUCCESSFUL VISIT BY ONDCP AND INL STAFF

ECUADOR. HE EXPLAINED THAT ELEVEN GUERRILLA FRONTS





OPERATE OUT OF THE EASTERN ZONE AND THAT EVERY DAY THE ERADICATION AND ESCORT PILOTS ARE PLACING THEIR LIVES AT GREAT RISK, FOR ROUGHLY EVERY THREE DAYS ONE OF THE PLANES TAKES A HIT FROM ENEMY FIRE. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE ASSISTANCE FROM THE ARMY PROVIDED BY "OPERATION CONQUISTA," HE REMARKED THAT FOR A SHORT TIME THE SITUATION WAS SOMEWHAT BETTER, BUT THEN THE ARMY LEFT. THE COMMANDER ALSO ELABORATED ON THE DIFFICULTIES OF GROUND SUPPORT FROM ARMY TROOPS THAT ARE MUCH LESS MOBILE THEN THE PLANES AND HELICOPTERS THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO

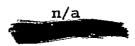
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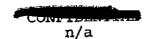
PAGE 03 BOGOTA 07271 02 OF 04 311321Z PROTECT.

(C) IN THE LATE AFTERNOON INL AND ONDCP OFFICERS EXPERIENCED A TYPICAL MISSION PLANNING SESSION AS THE ERADICATION TEAM REVIEWED GOALS, TACTICS, AND COORDINATES FOR THE FOLLOWING MORNING'S FLIGHTS. THIS DEMONSTRATION EXPLAINED THAT MISSION PLANNING INVOLVED SEVERAL DIFFERENT POSSIBLE LOCATIONS FOR ERADICATION (IE. SAN JOSE, CALAMAR, MIRAFLORES) IN CASE OF RAIN. LEAD PILOTS ALSO REVIEWED THE PROCEDURES FOR FLIGHT ALTITUDES, FLIGHT FORMATIONS, HOSTILE FIRE, SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS, AND NOTIFIED THE VISITORS THAT EACH MISSION IS ACCOMPANIED BY A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, AND/OR THE GOC'S ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITOR. THE VISITING OFFICERS WERE FINALLY BRIEFED ON THE USE AND OPERATION OF THE SATLOC SYSTEM THAT ASSISTS MISSION PLANNERS IN SITE SELECTION AND PROVIDES PINPOINT ACCURACY TO RECORD WHAT AREAS HAVE BEEN SPRAYED.

INCONSISTENCIES WITH COUNTERNARCOTCS CENTER (CNC) PROVIDED COORDINATES

7. (C) THE TEAM SPENT THE MORNING AND EARLY AFTERNOON OF JULY 23 LANDING IN PREVIOUSLY ERADICATED COCA FIELDS TO VERIFY THE RESULTS OF THE GLYPHOSATE SPRAYING. THE FIELD LOCATION COORDINATES HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY SELECTED BY THE CNC IN A JULY 18 MEMORANDUM WHICH ALSO CONTAINED DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FIELD CHARACTERISTICS AND CONDITION OF THE COCA CROP. THE FIRST TWO FIELDS THAT THE TEAM REACHED WERE NUMBERS 5 AND 6 FROM THAT MEMO, LOCATED





Contraction ...

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OUTSIDE OF CALAMAR WITH THE COORDINATES 02-07-09N 072-2059W, AND 02-07-50N 072-19-05W. ALL HELICOPTER-SIGHTED
COORDINATES WERE DOUBLE CHECKED WITH THE PERSONAL GLOBAL
POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) OF THE LUIS EDUARDO PARRA, THE
GOC'S ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITOR WHO ACCOMPANIED THE TEAM
DURING ALL STAGES OF ITS FIELD OBSERVATIONS, AS WELL AS
WITH GPS SYSTEMS ABOARD INL AIRWING HELICOPTER IN WHICH
THE GROUP WAS TRAVELLING.

8. (C) THE FIRST FIELD, WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS A "GOOD EXAMPLE OF HEALTHY COCA INTERMIXED WITH EVENLY SPACED TREES/BUSHES," HAD BEEN SPRAYED IN "JUNE/JULY/AUGUST OF 1996." THE COCA BUSHES THAT THE TEAM INSPECTED WERE DRY AND DEAD, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOME MEAGER AND DEFORMED LEAVES THAT, AS DR. PARRA EXPLAINED, THE DYING PLANTS EMIT AS A FEEBLE ATTEMPT TO REGENERATE. THE BUSHES COULD BE PULLED OUT BY THE ROOTS WITH ONE HAND AND ALL OF THE SHOOTS TOGETHER WOULD SNAP UNDERFOOT WHEN STEPPED ON.

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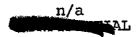
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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7837
INFO DEA HQS WASHDC
DOSAIRWING PATRICK AFB FL
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
USEU BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS AMEMBASSY PARIS



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DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
CIA WASHDC//CNC//
COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHDC
[USCINCSO HOWARD AFB PM//DDN/SCJ2//
US CUSTOMS SERVICE WASHDC
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USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCFA/SOCSOUTH//
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STATE FOR INL, INL/LP-SANCHEZ-CARLO, AND ARA, INL PASS TO USDA FOR ERIC ROSENQUIST NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS JUSTICE FOR CRIM. WARREN RICHARD AND NDDS/VAN VLIET CUSTOMS FOR LA OPS, INTELLIGENCE DIA FOR DIR-3C4, DOF-5, DIR-5SA, JSI, JTIC, DAT-CN USEU FOR STICKNEY, ONDCP FOR JANET CRIST

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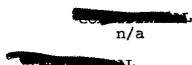
TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: SUCCESSFUL VISIT BY ONDCP AND INL STAFF

AN ABANDONED LAB THAT WAS DISCOVERED IN THE UNDERBRUSH BEYOND THE CLEARING WAS SET ALIGHT USING UNUSED PROCESSING CHEMICALS. THE COCA PLANTS IN FIELD NUMBER 6 SHOWED THE SAME CHARACTERISTICS, ALTHOUGH THE SURROUNDING GRASS HAD GROWN EVEN HIGHER THAN THE BUSHES THAT WERE COVERED IN FUNGUS. AN ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE WITH BLACK PLASTIC TUBING TO IRRIGATE ONE PATCH OF COCA THAT WAS STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE SURROUNDED BY DEAD COCA ON ALL SIDES.

9. (C) AFTER REFUELING, THE TEAM HEADED DOWN TO





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MIRAFLORES AND ENCOUNTERED THE RELATIVELY MASSIVE
EXPANSES OF COCA THAT ARE MORE COMMON IN THAT AREA. THE
VISITORS HAD PICKED OUT A FIELD, NUMBER FOUR ON THE CNC
MEMO (AT COORDINATES 01-24-06N 71-55-53W), THAT HAD BEEN
SPRAYED IN OCTOBER, 1996 AND "WAS IN POOR CONDITION IN
JANUARY BUT BY MAY HAD REBOUNDED AND WAS HEALTHY AGAIN."
WHEN THE GROUP TOUCHED GROUND AND SURVEYED THE AREA THEY
DISCOVERED THAT THE FIELD WAS COMPLETELY DEAD AND COVERED
WITH EXTENSIVE WEEDS AND GRASSES.

10. (C) UPON LANDING SPONTANEOUSLY IN ONE AREA THAT HAD VERY ACTIVE (UNFUMIGATED) COCA BUSHES, THE TEAM DISCOVERED AN ENCAMPMENT OF SEVEN HOUSES WITH SLEEPING QUARTERS FOR CLOSE TO THIRTY INDIVIDUALS. THE CAPTURED LEAF PICKERS, AMONG THEM A YOUNG BOY CLAIMING TO BE ALL OF FIFTEEN YEARS OLD, SAID THAT THEY WERE PAID 2,000 PESOS, OR JUST UNDER 2 DOLLARS, FOR EACH ARROBA (25 POUNDS) OF LEAVES THAT THEY PICKED. BEFORE LEAVING THE AREA THE GROUP WAS GIVEN A DEMONSTRATION OF A RADIAL SPRAY MISSION OVER AN EXTENSIVE COCA FIELD BY FOUR T-65 AIRCRAFT.

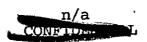
NEIVA AND OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION

11. (C) THAT AFTERNOON ONDCP, INL, AND NAS OFFICERS FLEW TO NEIVA WHERE THEY WERE MET BY THE ENTIRE UNIT AFTER AN ESCORT TO THE CNP ANTINARCOTICS BASE. CAPTAIN VARGAS OF THE CNP LEAD THE BRIEFING ON OPIUM POPPY ERADICATION EFFORTS WHICH INCLUDED OPERATIONAL AND SECURITY NORMS AS WELL AS VISUAL DISPLAYS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE WROUGHT BY POPPY PRODUCTION UP AMONG THE MOUNTAIN PEAKS.

TAIL

PAGE 04 BOGOTA 07271 03 OF 04 311326Z
VARGAS INDICATED THAT THE CNP IN NEIVA WAS IN PERMANENT
CONTACT WITH THE COUNTERGUERRILLA PATROLS AND THAT ON 30
PERCENT OF ERADICATION MISSIONS SOMEBODY FIRES AT
FUMIGATION OR ESCORT AIRCRAFT.

12. (C) CAPTAIN MORA FOLLOWED WITH AN EXPLANATION OF THE DIFFICULTIES THAT THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN FACES OUT OF NEIVA, INCLUDING SUBVERSIVE GROUPS (NEIVA IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE FARC, COLOMBIA'S LARGEST INSURGENT

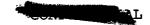


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ORGANIZATION), RUGGED TOPOGRAPHY, AND A SHORTAGE OF OPERABLE AIRCRAFT. AS IN SAN JOSE, THE GLYPHOSATE SPRAYING PROGRAM IS ACCOMPANIED BY GOC OFFICIALS WHO VERIFY THAT THE CHEMICAL SPRAYED IS INDEED GLYPHOSATE AND NOT ANOTHER CHEMICAL AS SOME HAVE ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF USING. THIS IMMEDIATE EVALUATION IS FOLLOWED UP WITH A LONG-TERM EVALUATION OF PROGRAM SUCCESS, ALTHOUGH THE OPIUM POPPY SHOWS SIGNS OF DYING WITHIN FOUR TO FIVE DAYS WITH THE COCA PLANT THESE SIGNS APPEAR AFTER A SIXTY DAY.



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O 311309Z JUL 97 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7838
INFO DEA HQS WASHDC
DOSAIRWING PATRICK AFB FL

AMEMBASSY LIMA AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

USEU BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHDC

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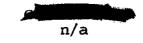
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STATE FOR INL, INL/LP-SANCHEZ-CARLO, AND ARA, INL PASS TO USDA FOR ERIC ROSENQUIST

NSC FOR JAMES DOBBINS
JUSTICE FOR CRIM. WARREN RICHARD AND NDDS/VAN VLIET
CUSTOMS FOR LA OPS, INTELLIGENCE
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ONDCP FOR JANET CRIST

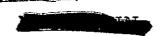
E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/30/00

TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: SUCCESSFUL VISIT BY ONDCP AND INL STAFF

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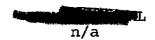
13. (C) VISITING OFFICIALS SPENT THE FOLLOWING MORNING VERIFYING THE EFFECTS OF GLYPHOSATE SPRAYED ON MATURE POPPIES FOUR DAYS BEFORE AND THEN WITNESSED THE SPECTACULAR AERIAL ERADICATION OF THE STEEPLY SLOPED NEIGHBORING POPPY FIELDS. IT WAS EVIDENT EVEN AT THIS EARLY STAGE THAT THE POPPY FLOWERS WERE WILTING AND LOSING COLOR. DR. PARRA EXPLAINED THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE TIME FOR ERADICATION WAS IN THE VERY FIRST STAGES OF SEEDLING DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLANT, EVEN THOUGH



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THE GREATEST ECONOMIC BLOW IS DELIVERED WHEN THE PLANTS
ARE DESTROYED IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO HARVEST AND AFTER
SUBSTANTIAL HUMAN RESOURCES HAVE BEEN INVESTED IN THE
CROP. IN THE AFTERNOON THE TEAM FLEW INTO MARIQUITA TO
INSPECT THE AERIAL ANTINARCOTICS TRAINING FACILITIES OF
THE CNP'S AVIATION SCHOOL THAT ARE CENTERED THERE.

14. (C) ON FRIDAY JULY 25, THE VISITORS MET WITH COLONEL JOSE LEONARDO GALLEGO, THE DIRECTOR OF THE CNP

n/a



ANTINARCOTICS FORCES, IN BOGOTA AFTER SPENDING THE MORNING WITH EMBASSY APPOINTMENTS. GALLEGO EXPRESSED THAT THIS YEAR'S GOAL WAS TO FUMIGATE 30 THOUSAND HECTARES OF COCA AND THAT THE PROGRAM WAS WELL WITHIN THOSE PARAMETERS AT THE PRESENT TIME. HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE CNP DID NOT HAVE ADEQUATE RESOURCES THAT WOULD FOSTER EVEN GREATER SUCCESS BECAUSE THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH CNP MEMBERS, THE CNP HELICOPTERS ARE NOT MADE FOR DEFENSE, AND BECAUSE CNP ARMS ARE INFERIOR TO THOSE OF THE GUERRILLA, WHO HAVE .50 MACHINE GUNS, MORTARS, AND ROCKETS.

15. (C) GALLEGO MADE CLEAR THAT THE CNP DID NOT NEED THE ARMY IN ORDER TO COMPLETE ITS MISSION AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE ARMY WAS COMPRISED OF CONSCRIPTS WHO WERE NOT WELL TRAINED WHEREAS THE CNP ARE PROFESSIONALS SERVING ON THEIR OWN VOLITION AND WITH GREATER PROFESSIONALISM AND TRAINING. HE RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ARMED SERVICES AND THE CNP AND EXCLAIMED THAT THE MILITARY DOES NOT HAVE RESPECT FOR THE POLICE AND WANT TO DISGRACE THEM WHENEVER POSSIBLE, WHEREAS THE CNP SUPPORTS, RESPECTS, AND BACKS THE MILITARY. GALLEGO DID



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OFFER THAT IN SUCH OPERATIONS AS OPERATION CONQUISTA, THE
MILITARY AND POLICE HAVE WORKED IN CONCERT, ALTHOUGH THE
ARMY CAN NOT COVER ALL THE GROUND AND SOMETIMES OFFER
HELP JUST TO DEMONSTRATE INVOLVEMENT AND THEN ASK FOR
RESOURCES.

16. COMMENT: (C) CNP COORDINATION OF THE TRIP AND VIP TREATMENT AFFORDED THE VISITORS WERE FIRST RATE. THE GROUP'S OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW THE ERADICATION PROGRAM FROM SUCH A CLOSE ANGLE WILL GIVE THEM UNIQUE INSIGHT INTO THE PROGRAM'S STRENGTHS AND POTENTIAL ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT. FRECHETTE



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