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FROM

FM JOINT STAFF (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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SECTION 1 OF 7

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

BODY

(b)(3):10 USC 424

SUBJ: (U) DIA INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FOR 20 MARCH.
SUMMARY OF FEATURES (b)(3):10 USC 424

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COLOMBIA: ~~(S)~~ ARMY OFFICERS ARRESTED
~~(S)~~ PURSUANT TO AN ARREST WARRANT ISSUED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS UNIT OF
THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, ARMY LT COL ORLANDO PULIDO WAS
ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH MULTIPLE COUNTS OF HOMICIDE AND CONSPIRACY.
FEATURES

Non Responsive

Non Responsive

COLOMBIA: (C) ARMY OFFICERS ARRESTED

1. (C) PURSUANT TO AN ARREST WARRANT ISSUED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS UNIT OF THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE (FISCALIA), ARMY LT COL ORLANDO PULIDO WAS ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH MULTIPLE COUNTS OF HOMICIDE AND CONSPIRACY. GEN JAIME USCATEGUI, A RETIRED ARMY GENERAL, ALSO WAS ARRESTED FOR HIS COMPLICITY IN A 1997 MASSACRE IN MAPIRIPAN, META DEPARTMENT, IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY LEFT THE INHABITANTS OF MAPIRIPAN AT THE MERCY OF PARAMILITARY FORCES.
2. -- (C) PULIDO ALLEGEDLY ORDERED THE NOVEMBER 1998 MASSACRE OF FIVE CIVILIANS IN THE VILLAGE OF LA CABUYA, CASANARE DEPARTMENT.
3. -- (C) THE VICTIMS, ONE A PREGNANT WOMAN, WERE BEHEADED. THE MURDERS REPORTEDLY WERE CARRIED OUT JOINTLY BY A GROUP OF ARMY SOLDIERS AND PARAMILITARY MEMBERS.
4. -- (C) ALONG WITH LT COL PULIDO, THE FISCALIA ALSO IS INVESTIGATING THE INVOLVEMENT OF SIX OTHER ARMY PERSONNEL ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN THE CASE.
5. (U) ACCORDING TO PRESS, THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (UNHCHR) IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT CORRECTLY POINTED OUT THAT MOST HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN COLOMBIA ARE COMMITTED BY LEFTIST GUERRILLAS AND THE PARAMILITARIES. NONETHELESS, THE REPORT ALSO NOTES A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN COMPLAINTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED BY SECURITY FORCES.
6. -- (U) THE UNHCHR REPORT ACCUSED BOGOTA OF NOT DOING ENOUGH TO SEVER ALLEGED LINKS BETWEEN THE SECURITY FORCES AND FAR-RIGHT PARAMILITARIES.
7. (C) THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COULD IN FACT BE ON THE INCREASE, BUT PROBABLY CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO A COMBINATION OF FACTORS.
8. -- (C) SINCE PRESIDENT URIBE TOOK OFFICE LAST AUGUST, THE COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONAL TEMPOS OF THE MILITARY AND POLICE HAVE INCREASED NOTABLY.
9. -- (C) PARAMILITARY FORCES ALSO HAVE INCREASED THEIR PRESENCE AND COUNTERGUERRILLA OPERATIONS IN CASANARE AND ARAUCA DEPARTMENTS, AREAS

LONG CONTROLLED BY LEFTIST GUERRILLAS.

10. (S) PULIDO AND USCATEGUI'S ARRESTS SUGGEST THE URIBE ADMINISTRATION IS SERIOUS ABOUT ADDRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. THE ARRESTS SHOULD IMPROVE THE GOVERNMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE AND HELP ADDRESS CONCERNS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC IN DEALING WITH ALLEGED MILITARY-PARAMILITARY COLLUSION.

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NOTES IN BRIEF

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