

PRIORITY

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ARA/NEA REARCS

CASE,  
NTM II

INCOMING

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INFO: CO (07) RJ (01) DAND (01) EAC (01) PDAS (01) PPC (01)  
25/1639Z AI LM (TOTAL COPIES: 007)  
ACTION INR-00

INFO LOG-00 AF-00 AID-01 AIT-03 AMAD-01 ARA-00 DS-00  
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FM DIA WASHINGTON DC  
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~~SECRET~~ NOFORN NOCONTRACT INTEL  
SUBJ: DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE TERRORISM SUMMARY (U)  
DITSUM #36-94, 25 FEBRUARY 1994  
CONTENTS  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
COLOMBIA: NTM KIDNAPING UPDATE (U)  
NON RESPONSIVE

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NON RESPONSIVE

1. (U) REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

A. (U) COLOMBIA: NTM KIDNAPING UPDATE.

(1) ON 18 FEBRUARY, NEW TRIBES MISSION (NTM) REPRESENTATIVES HAD RADIO CONTACT WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA (FARC) 53RD FRONT KIDNAPERS OF TWO US MISSIONARIES TAKEN HOSTAGE NEAR VILLAVICENCIO, META DEPARTMENT ON 16 JANUARY. THE KIDNAPERS DEMANDED A \$3 MILLION RANSOM; THE NTM REPLIED THAT ITS POLICY IS TO NOT PAY KIDNAPING RANSOMS. HOWEVER, THE NTM DID AGREE TO GIVE THE GUERRILLAS A NEW RADIO AND BATTERY TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS. IN A RELATED REPORT, THE COLOMBIAN ARMY 7TH BRIGADE STAGED AN UNAUTHORIZED AND UNSUCCESSFUL RESCUE ATTEMPT BASED ON FALSE INFORMATION FROM AN INFORMANT.

(2) ~~IS/AF/NO~~ EARLIER REPORTS FIXED THE ORIGINS OF FARC RADIO TRANSMISSIONS TO A MOUNTAIN LOCATION ROUGHLY 40 MILES NORTHEAST OF THE ABDUCTION SITE. THE FARC IS WELL AWARE OF GOVERNMENT MILITARY OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES, AND FOR SECURITY PURPOSES, ROUTINELY RELOCATES ITS CAPTIVES AND RADIO TRANSMISSIONS SITES. PREVIOUS COLOMBIAN MILITARY RESCUE

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OPERATIONS HAVE RESULTED IN THE CROSSFIRE DEATHS OF THE KIDNAPING VICTIMS; THIS HAS CAUSED MOST NEGOTIATORS TO NOT INVOLVE THE MILITARY IN TALKS WITH THE KIDNAPERS.

(3) ~~AF~~ THE FARC MADE A SIMILAR EXORBITANT RANSOM DEMAND AFTER ITS JANUARY 1993 KIDNAPING OF THREE NTM MISSIONARIES IN PANAMA, WHO ARE STILL BEING HELD IN COLOMBIA. THE FARC INITIALLY CLAIMED THAT THE VILLAVICENCIO ABDUCTIONS WERE IN PROTEST OF THE

DEPLOYMENT OF US TROOPS TO VALLE DEL CAUCA DEPARTMENT, BUT THE ACTUAL MOTIVATION FOR THE KIDNAPINGS REMAINS UNCLEAR. GUERRILLA GROUPS ARE AWARE THAT MISSIONARY GROUPS LACK BOTH THE MONEY TO PAY RANSOM DEMANDS OR ANY INFLUENCE ON COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT POLICIES. NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER, APPEAR TO BE FOLLOWING THE

USUAL DRAWN-OUT AND FRUSTRATING PATH TOWARD EVENTUAL RESOLUTION, WITH THE HOSTAGES RELEASED UNHARMED.

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