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E.O. 12958: DECL: 2034/10/27
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PTER, PINR, PHUM, KJUS, CO
SUBJECT: CNP HYPOTHESIS AS TO ILLEGAL WIRETAPS MASTERMINDS

REF: BOGOTA 3185 AND PREVIOUS

CLASSIFIED BY: William R. Brownfield, Ambassador; REASON: 1.4(B),
(C), (D)

1. (S/NF) General Oscar Naranjo (strictly protect throughout), the Colombian National Police (CNP) Director, told PolCouns and Sr. Colombia Desk Officer on October 21 that the analysis of cell phone calls made by the six signers of mala fide judicial telephone intercept orders (see reftels) submitted to the Prosecutor General's Office pointed to an individual named Freddy Monsalve. Monsalve had received phone calls from Juan Carlos Arzayuz --former DAS Director Andres Penate's Deputy for Intelligence-- who was arrested in July along with seven other former officials of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) in relation to the wiretap scandal. Naranjo said the hypothesis is that Arzayuz instructed Monsalve to record Supreme Court auxiliary magistrate Ivan Velazquez and leak the tape to "Semana" news magazine. The ruse, Naranjo explained, was intended to exculpate the imprisoned Arzayuz. Naranjo said the circumstances suggested this was not the first time that Arzayuz and Monsalve had conspired to conduct illegal wiretaps, though authorities had not developed any hard evidence.

2. (S/NF) At the time of Arzayuz's arrest, he was working at the Prosecutor General's Investigate Corps (CTI). Arzayuz made the switch from DAS to CTI, which Naranjo found odd given the difference in institutional cultures, when Maria del Pilar Hurtado replaced Penate as DAS Director in August 2007. Naranjo said that the CNP had not yet arrested Monsalve, but had him under surveillance to uncover more of his criminal connections. Though he had no proof, and at this time it was his mere conjecture, Naranjo said he suspected Uribe's Secretary of the Presidency

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Bernardo Moreno and possibly advisor Jose Obdulio Gaviria had ordered the illegal surveillance. Naranjo said he would pursue the investigation wherever it leads.

3. (S/NF) COMMENT: This falls in the category of informed speculation, but speculation from Naranjo has a pretty good track record for success.
BROWNFIELD