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ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX584 MCN = 92006/12489 TOR = 920061518
PTTCZYUW RUEKJCS0131 0061517-CCCC--RUEALGX.
ZNY CCCCC

HEADER

P 061517Z JAN 92
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUFGAID/USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE
RUEKCCG/USDP-CCC WASHINGTON DC
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RULSJGA/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RULKNIS/COMNISCOM WASHINGTON DC//NAVATAC//
RUFTAKA/USAINTELCTRE HEIDELBERG GE
RUFTAKC/UDITDUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
RUDOGHA/USNMR SHAPE BE//SURVEY//
RUWTPGA/USSOUTHAF BERGSTROM AFB TX//IN//
RUWSMXI/MAC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CARA//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//

RUEALGX/SAFE
RUEADDS/DITDS
P 061444Z JAN 92

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1473
INFO RUEBWJA/DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
RUEHNA/DEA WASHDC
RUEHFB/DIRFBI WASHDC
RHEHOND/DIRIRONDPD WASHDC
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0831
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 0586
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 1616
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 1014
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RUCBSAA/USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

BT

CONTROLS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 00131

Dept of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 4-21-03 Exemption _____

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DEA FOR AD, AO AX, DO, OC, OF, OIOA
CINCSO AND CINCLANT ALSO FOR POLAD
E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

BODY

TAGS: PHUM, PINS, SNAR, ASEC, CO
SUBJECT: CALI REAL ESTATE COMPANY TIED TO INDIAN **MASSACRE**
REF: 91 BOGOTA 19354

1. (C) SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, A SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT ASSIGNED TO THE PUBLIC ORDER COURT SYSTEM ANNOUNCED THAT ARREST WARRANTS HAD BEEN ISSUED DECEMBER 31 FOR A LAWYER AND TWO EMPLOYEES OF A CALI-BASED REAL ESTATE COMPANY FOR THE DEC 16 MURDER OF 20 INDIANS IN THE POPPY GROWING REGION OF **CAUCA** DEPARTMENT (REFTEL). TWO BROTHERS, ONE OF WHOM IS IN DEA'S FILES, OWN THE COMPANY. END SUMMARY.
2. (U) CUERPO TECNICO, THE INVESTIGATIVE ARM OF **COLOMBIA'S** PUBLIC ORDER COURTS, ANNOUNCED DEC. 31 THAT A PUBLIC ORDER JUDGE HAD ISSUED ARREST WARRANTS FOR 3 PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DECEMBER 16 **MASSACRE** OF 20 PAEZ INDIANS IN THE OPIUM POPPY GROWING REGION OF **CAUCA** DEPARTMENT. GILBERTO MARQUEZ HENAO, 55, A LAWYER FOR THE CALI-BASED REAL ESTATE FIRM OF SOCIEDAD INVERSIONES PIEDRAS BLANCAS LTDA (PIEDRAS BLANCAS), IS ONE OF THE ACCUSED. MARQUEZ IS KNOWN TO HAVE THREATENED THE INDIANS WHO WERE SQUATTING ON LAND RECENTLY PURCHASED BY PIEDRAS BLANCAS. THE OTHER TWO ACCUSED ARE HERNANDO ZAPATA, 35, A MANAGER OF PIEDRAS BLANCAS PROPERTIES, AND A MAN KNOWN ONLY AS "CARLOS."
3. (U) IN A JANUARY 3 ARTICLE, BOGOTA'S LEADING DAILY EL TIEMPO QUOTED A HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL AS SAYING THAT PIEDRAS BLANCAS IS A REAL ESTATE FIRM WHOSE PRIMARY OWNERS ARE LUIS ALBERTO AND JOSE ANTONIO BERNAL SEIJAS OF CALI. (LUIS ALBERTO IS IN DEA'S FILES.) THE ARTICLE STATED THAT THE BERNAL BROTHERS ARE OWNERS, THROUGH THEIR COMPANY, OF SEVEN FARMS IN RURAL NORTHEAST **CAUCA** DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING THE 800-HECTARE "EL NILO" FARM WHERE DECEMBER'S **MASSACRE** TOOK PLACE.
4. (U) THE BERNAL BROTHERS PURCHASED EL NILO DECEMBER 6. THE PREVIOUS OWNER OF THE FARM HAD ALLOWED ROUGHLY 70 INDIANS TO LIVE ON PART OF THE PROPERTY. DECEMBER 7, EIGHT ARMED MEN ENTERED THE PROPERTY AND ATTEMPTED TO BURN THE INDIANS OUT. DECEMBER 16, APPROXIMATELY 50

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ARMED MEN ATTACKED THE INDIANS, KILLING 20 (REFTEL).

5. (C) THE NORTHEAST PART OF **CAUCA** DEPARTMENT IS A PRIMARY OPIUM POPPY GROWING AREA. GOC SOURCES HAVE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED THAT THEY SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF THE CALI MAFIA OF BUYING LAND IN THE AREA FOR THE CULTIVATION OF POPPIES.

6. (U) ONE OFFICIAL OF THE CUERPO TECNICO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT FROM 1980-1990 PIEDRAS BLANCAS HAD NO APPARENT SOURCE OF INCOME BUT WAS, NONETHELESS, ABLE TO PURCHASE PROPERTIES WORTH MILLIONS OF PESOS. NO CHARGES HAVE YET BEEN FILED AGAINST THE BERNAL BROTHERS. THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES AND THE SPECIAL 21-PERSON INVESTIGATIVE UNIT ASSIGNED TO THE CASE IS CONCENTRATING ITS EFFORTS ON CALI, SANTANDER, AND SEVILLA, CITIES IN **CAUCA** AND VALLE DE **CAUCA**.

7. (C) COMMENT: CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT **COLOMBIA'S** WORST **MASSACRE** OF 1991 MAY HAVE BEEN RELATED TO THE CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES. THE CALI CARTEL'S DIVERSIFICATION INTO THE LUCRATIVE OPIUM TRADE COULD MEAN INCREASED LEVELS OF NARCOVIOLENCE FOR 1992. END COMMENT. BUSBY

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