

AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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CASL X

DATE SENT

May 29, 1963

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FROM .

Bogota

SUBJECT .

Monthly Report of Public Safety Division, Colombia (May 1963)

REFERENCE .

Report Control No. U-127

GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3-year intervals.
Declassified 12 years after date of origin.

THE NATIONAL POLICE

I. SITUATION

A. A manifestation in support of Ex-President Rojas Pinilla was planned for May 10. It was believed that this manifestation, in the event it received sufficient support, might lead to an attempt to overthrow the Government. Therefore prior to this date there was considerable tension and concern. Those planning the manifestation were denied the use of the Plaza Bolivar in the downtown area, but were authorized the use of the Stadium which is in a residential area. The police made extensive plans, including specific assignments to all 3,500 police personnel in Bogota and the use of 100 mounted police in the business sector. Police troops were armed with new 26 inch batons and only commissioned officers carried firearms. The military, in addition to certain specific assignments, had 6,000 personnel in reserve and immediately available in the event the police needed assistance. Persons manifesting refused to use the Stadium and were unable to enter the well guarded Plaza. The situation therefore was flexible, with groups trying to form in various parts of the downtown area and incidents occurring in a number of places. Mounted police and squads on foot constantly dispersed groups as they tried to form. Over 500 persons were arrested, but several days later all but 45 had been released. Disorder lasted about three hours and the city returned to normal after 7:00 p.m. One policeman, attempting to take a jeep from the business sector to a place of safety, was attacked and died of his injuries the following day. Several police received minor injuries. A number of vehicles, most of

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Public Safety ACTG

AID AND OTHER CLEARANCES

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R JOHNSON
CPLF AID/OPA
MAR 18 1982

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PHONE NO. DATE

28 May 63

APPROVED BY:

Charles P. Fossum, Director

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cc: Ambassador

R Warren

Col. Vallery

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then belonging to the police, were badly damaged. This, however, was the extent of injuries and damage. The manner in which the police and military supported the Government averted what might have been a very serious situation. Public Safety Advisers, who witnessed the operation of the police throughout the affair, were impressed with the manner in which the police exerted control. Newspapers, television, and radio joined in commending the police for the "calm but energetic" manner in which they controlled the situation.

II. OPERATIONS.

A. Last month it was reported that the Deputy Director of the National Police and the Public Safety Division were making detailed inspections of the principal police stations in Bogotá for the purpose of bringing about better utilization of manpower. The inspections were just recently completed but work remains in this project. Although a number of corrections were made at the time of the inspections, the major changes will be made through a General Order and a conference of all police officials. When this project is completed, Public Safety will, because of its importance, submit a special report to AID/W.

B. Last month a group of business and professional men in the city of Cali, a fast growing industrial city, with some financial assistance from the city government purchased 40 radio patrol vehicles for the use of the National Police in that city. The Deputy Director of the National Police asked that the Chief Public Safety Advisor accompany him to Cali and to assist in preparing a plan to insure effective use of these vehicles. During a six day period in Cali, the following action was taken:

1. Patrol sectors, based upon incidence of crime, were established.
2. A radio code was established.
3. 156 drivers and crew members of the patrol vehicles were given ten hours of training in safe driving and techniques of motorized patrol.
4. Policy concerning the use and care of the vehicles was adopted.
5. Additional training, not directly connected with the patrol vehicles, was provided. (See "C" below)

C. Last month's report related to the training in "Patrol Methods" provided by PS to over 1,000 police personnel in Bogotá. There is considerable interest in this training course and it is training that is urgently needed. The Director-General and the Deputy Director of National Police have asked that Public Safety, as time permits, conduct this training in police schools

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and police stations of the major cities throughout the Republic. During the past month, therefore, PS trained 358 police personnel (10 officials, 26 non-coms, and 322 agents) in the cities of Cali and Tulua in the Department of Valle.

D. The AID survey team that made the study of the National Police of Colombia prior to the establishment of the Public Safety Program stressed the importance of better utilization of police patrol vehicles. It pointed out that, by tradition and custom, a patrol vehicle is in service only six hours a day with the result that there are never more than 25% of the patrol vehicles in service at any given hour. Public Safety has discussed this with police officials on several occasions. Although police officials agreed with PS recommendations, there were several problems encountered in efforts to increase the percentage of vehicles in service. The major problems have been overcome, however, and within a few weeks the number of patrol vehicles in service at any given time will be increased considerably. If this plan becomes effective in June, as anticipated, details will be submitted in the report for that month.

E. Police officials have asked that Public Safety make a study of their complete transportation system - this involves much more than patrol vehicles - and submit recommendations accordingly. This study will be made just as soon as time permits.

F. Public Safety technicians met with officials of the U.S. Military Mission to discuss coordination between the National Police and the Military.

G. The National Police received 2,400 new revolvers. Although they were purchased from last year's police funds, delivery was made last month.

III. EVALUATION

A. The National Police of Colombia has serious problems on the operational level. On the other hand, in the opinion of PS, it is much further advanced on the administrative and organizational level than the police of many Latin countries. Colombian police officials nevertheless seek, accept, and implement technical advice.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

No change.

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ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY (DAS) 18 1982

I. SITUATION

A. No significant changed occurred in the situation in DAS during May. The new Minister of Government, Dr. Eurelio CAMACHO Ruedo, has made strong public accusations against the Communist Party and the communist line MRL for instigating disorders and violence. He has assured a strong ~~MOXIMA~~

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government policy against this agitation, but these statements have not yet been translated into any discernable change in DAS operations.

B. The tenure of the present Chief of DAS, Col. Alfonso ROJAS Martinez, continues to be in doubt. Increasing familiarity with the operations of DAS by the Investigations Advisor, however, reveals political strength that explains to some extent the continuance of Col. Rojas in office despite political pressure to appoint a new chief. Assuming that the President desires to really strengthen and improve DAS he must take into consideration that the considerable degree of professionalism and technical competence which exists in DAS today was brought about by Col. Rojas, and may to a great extent disappear if and when Col. Rojas leaves. For example, a number of the Field Office chiefs are retired army officers who are in no way interested in the meager salaries, but serve out of personal devotion to Col. Rojas and out of recognition that he desires to create a non-political, professional organization. They state frankly that if a politician is appointed Chief of DAS they will resign. The Chief of the Rural Security Service, Col. Eduardo Roman, is in turn a strong political force in the Llanos and is given credit by many for having brought tranquillity to that area formerly racked by violence. The situation is complicated by the fact that Col. Rojas and his appointees in DAS are generally of liberal persuasion, and the Llanos area is dominated by liberal politics. While it is generally admitted that Col. Rojas has been fair in his employment policy in DAS the President is under strong pressure from his own Conservative Party to change DAS leadership. A further complication is the personal estrangement which has grown between Col. Rojas and the President. ~~Mutual~~ Mutual friends state that Col. Rojas is a proud type who, having submitted the customary resignation at the beginning of this administration, resents that he was not confirmed in his post, and his pride prevents him from seeking out the President. The President, on the other hand, feels that Col. Rojas has not been personally attentive to him, and has thus been tending to favor a change.

C. It is difficult to predict precisely what effect AID/Public Safety recommendations will have on this situation in DAS. The recommendations are chiefly concerned with the questions of jurisdiction, and the assignment of improper functions to DAS under present decrees. They do not necessarily reflect unfavorably against the present Chief of DAS, who in most ways has made the best of the situation handed to him.

II. OPERATIONS

A. The Investigations Advisor spent nine days in May inspecting the operations of the Rural Security Service of DAS in the Llanos area of Colombia, in the company of Col. Rojas, Chief of DAS, and Col. Eduard

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Roman, Chief of the Rural Security Service. The story of the Rural Security Service is one which has never been told, so far as is known here, and deserves to be told for the lessons it may reveal regarding the violence problem in Colombia. A separate report will therefore be prepared on the Rural Security Service of DAS.

B. The DAS report and its recommendations for DAS is being completed, and will be forwarded within a few days.

C. In a conference with Mr. Lawrence Harrison, AID/W, on May 24, it was agreed that an allotment of \$150,000 from FY 63 funds would be requested and reserved for commodities to implement the DAS plan if it is accepted by GOC. A Program Agreement will be prepared covering this funding and signed prior to July 1, 1963. This prompt backing of the DAS plan by AID/W is much appreciated and will strengthen considerably the presentation to President Valencia.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

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ANNEX I

T R A I N I N G

<u>Place, Type of Training Dates, Hours</u>	<u>Entered Trng. This Month</u>	<u>Total in Training</u>	<u>Completed this month</u>	<u>Completed Training to date</u>
<u>U. S. Training</u>				
1 week Bomb disposal course Canal Zone				7
12 week. gen. course at Iapa		7		
<u>Local</u>				
1 week course "Use of Police Baton" Nat. Police	1,000	1,000	1,500	5,000
1 day course in "Patrol Methods" Nat. Police	358		358	1,470
1 day course in "Safe Driving" for Police chauffeurs				211

Notes:

There are 9 National Police and 2 DAS training centers in constant operation. This annex, however, includes only that training in which public safety assisted or had some connection.

ANNEX II

No commodities received since Public Safety Program was established.

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