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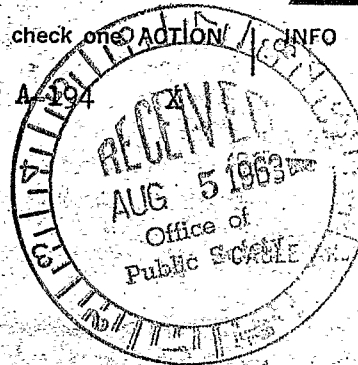
ACTION COPY

For each address check one ACTION/INFO

TO - AID/W

TOAID A-194

DATE REC'D.



SECTION

DATE SENT
July 31, 1963

MR

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ACTION

OPS - 12
INFO.

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FROM Bogota

SUBJECT Public Safety Division, USAID/Colombia -
Monthly Report (July, 1963)

REFERENCE Report Control Nr. U-127

I. SITUATION.

A. Public Safety Advisors, working with the National Police throughout the Republic, observe that the National Police in the Departments (States) must rely on economic assistance from Departmental and city governments. In many instances local governments are providing buildings, supplies, vehicles, etc., and in at least one Department (Meta) the Departmental Government is providing the National Police a specified sum of money each month. Without this assistance the police could not operate. On the other hand, the extent to which local governments are providing this assistance indicates confidence in the police. In a number of Departments, police commanders frequently are requested to establish police posts in small communities where posts do not exist. The police, however, do not have the personnel with which to comply with these requests.

Recently a report was submitted to AID/W concerning the operation of DAS in the Llanos area. The Llanos, a thinly populated plains area that represents over a third of the country, was the scene of considerable violence in past years. A PS advisor recently reviewed the operation of the National Police in this area. Police commanders state that, although this area has been quiet for several years, the potential exists for the renewal of violence. They claim that bandit gangs, although inactive, still exist and are well armed. It

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OTHER AGENCY

State

CIA

NSA

NSC

ARMY

PAGE OF PAGES

DRAFTED BY

D Laughlin

Chf. Pub. Safe. Advr.
AID AND OTHER CLEARANCES

OFFICE

Pub. Safety

PHONE NO.

DATE

7/30/63

APPROVED BY:

Charles P. Fossum
Mission Director

GStLouis, Prod. Offr.
SDEaton, D/D

ccs: Ambassador Freeman
Col. Vallery

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is the contention of the police, too, that subversive elements are active in the fringe area where the Llanos approaches the more populated area. The subversive elements, according to the police, are taking advantage of the fact that there is little governmental contact with the population in the Llanos. The National Police uses the following tactics to combat subversion in the Llanos: (1) Within personnel limitations, police posts have been established where subversives are most active; (2) Police are being trained to carry out civic action programs; (3) the Police are mimeographing and distributing leaflets and handbills to counteract subversive propaganda; (4) A small number of F-2 agents of the police, posing as laborers, have been placed on the larger farms.

Since there are few roads in the Llanos, and they are impassable in rainy weather, most travel is by air or water. Most of the towns are along the rivers. The police travel principally by boat, but, due to the lack of motors, must row or paddle thus making travel slow and difficult. The acquisition of about ten motors would increase police capability considerably.

II. OPERATIONS.

- A. Mr. Marion Collier, Public Safety Advisor (Training) arrived at the post in July. He has been assigned to develop a course of training in Investigation and also has been designated as communications advisor until such time as a communications advisor arrives. He will maintain contact with communications advisors of DAS, the National Police, the Colombian military, and the Military Mission. Although Collier is not a communications advisor, this arrangement will provide coordination with other agencies until a full time advisor arrives.
- B. A PS advisor reviewed police operation in the Llanos area and, at the same time provided training in Patrol Methods to agents in the training school in Villavicencio and to agents and officers in Villavicencio.
- C. PS is disappointed in the small amount of activity in the Public Relations section of the National Police that was established several months ago. Although PS has had little time to work with this program, it recently submitted recommendations concerning Public Relations to the Minister and the Director-General of National Police. PS will discuss this with the Director-General soon.
- D. Colonel Camacho, Chief of Staff and the number two man in the Police Department, departed for London where he will serve for an unknown length of time as Attaché in the Colombian Embassy. Colonel Mosquera, former Director of the Training School "Santander," has been named Chief of Staff. The exact reason for Colonel Camacho's appointment as Attaché in England is not known. It is the belief of Public Safety, however, that it is connected with numerous statements made by police officials that relations between the Minister of War and top police

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officials are not good.

- E. During past months PS has devoted considerable time and effort to improvement of the utilization of police personnel and equipment. A special report concerning this activity was sent to AID/W July 5th.
- F. The commander of the seventh police station, located in the industrial area of Bogotá, has received numerous requests to assign police agents to guard factories. Since the police do not have personnel to handle this, the commander, Major Acosta, offered to assist the factories in organizing plant protection and training their own guards. Major Acosta then requested PS technical assistance. Two PS advisors met with Major Acosta and his staff and explained the basic points of industrial security and plant protection. PS also offered to obtain materials covering this field in more detail.
- G. The Commander of the F-2 section of the National Police has asked that Public Safety survey the records of this section and offer recommendations for improvement. This will be done just as soon as time permits. PS at the present time, and at the request of the police, is making a study of the police transportation system.
- H. As indicated by the two paragraphs above and by previous monthly reports, the National Police continue to ask for and use PS technical assistance. Almost daily PS advisors are asked to attend meetings and offer advice on various phases of police operation.
- I. The Chief Advisor and the Chief of Staff of the National Police have arrived at complete agreement, and worked out a plan for the distribution and use of equipment contributed by AID that will arrive in the forthcoming months.

III. EVALUATION.

- A. Working relations between PS advisors and the Police are excellent. Public Safety is highly pleased with the manner in which police officials ask for and implement technical assistance.
- B. PS believes the most serious problems are: (1) The economic situation that affects police operation and requires the police to seek assistance from City and Departmental Governments; (2) The question as to whether the police can maintain its undermanned force at its present level or will face further reduction. At present PS can only watch this situation for developments; (3) Fixed posts that require the services of a large number of police agents that otherwise could be patrolling or engaged in general police work.
- C. It is estimated that from 50 to 60% of the police agents in Bogotá are assigned to fixed posts. In the larger cities in the Departments the number will vary from 25 to 40%. Many of these are "paid posts" where

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merchants contract for police agents to guard their establishments. The funds derived from this are used to carry on an effective social welfare program for police agents and their families. This social welfare program probably is the most important contributing factor in the stability of the National Police. The turn-over or annual loss of personnel in the National Police is from 12 to 15% a year, which is extremely low in comparison to other Latin countries known to the PS advisors. This stability is of utmost importance to any police agency. Unless other funds could be secured for the social welfare program--which seems impossible at this time--the elimination of paid posts and the subsequent loss of the welfare program certainly would have a detrimental effect on the National Police. On the other hand, the large numbers of agents assigned to fixed posts reduces the ability of the police to provide adequate protection to the public. The only immediate solution, which is presently being placed in effect, is the retention of paid posts but with agents instructed not to serve as sentinels but to patrol a three block sector in a line with the designated post.

IV. OTHER.

- A. There is little activity in the DAS program at this time. The DAS report is being translated and will be delivered to GOC as soon as it is ready. A Project Agreement has been signed, however, that requires GOC to implement all major recommendations of the DAS report. It is expected that implementation will be underway when GOC officials have received and studied in detail the complete DAS report.

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A N N E X 1
T R A I N I N G

Place, Type of Training Dates, Hours	Entered Trg. This month	Total in Training	Comple this month	Completed Training To date
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U.S. Training

1 week Bomb Disposal course Canal Zone				9
12 week gen. course at Iapa			7	7

Local

1 week course "Use of Police Baton" National Police	1000		1000	7200
1 day course in "Patrol Methods" National Police	261		261	2834
1 day course in "Safe Driving for Police Chauffeurs				211

Note:

There are nine (9) National Police and two (2) DAS training centers in constant operation. This annex, however, includes only that training in which Public Safety assisted or had some connection.

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ANNEX I I A

(PUBLIC SAFETY COMMODITIES RECEIVED)

Items	PIO/C	THIS MO.	TO DATE	CUMULATIVE DOLLAR VALUE	DISP. & CONDITION
Megaphones	5-30719		18	1800	Good to Nat. Police

ANNEX I I B

(PUBLIC SAFETY COMMODITIES NOT RECEIVED)

Since no undue delay exists, undelivered commodities are not reported. This conforms to recent instructions.

ANNEX I I C

(PIO/Cs issued this month)

NONE

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