

AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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TO - AID/W TOAID A 1251 X

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1964 FEB 13 3 01

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AIRGRAM BRANCH
DATE SENT
February 11, '64

FROM - Bogotá

SUBJECT - Monthly Report of Public Safety Division, Colombia (January 1964)

REFERENCE - Report Control No. U-127

NATIONAL POLICE

*cc pulled D/R
J Lee pulled Minutes
1 copy only
OPS-2*

I. SITUATION

The most significant flare-up in Colombia during the month of January resulted from the Government's implementation of January 8 of a newly passed law increasing gasoline tax by ten centavos on the gallon (equal to about 1 cent U.S.). This brought the price of gasoline to 1.35 pesos per gallon, or 13.5 cents U.S. Taxi cab owner-drivers responded with a country wide strike in which there were strong indications of communist exploitation. Windshields of taxis and buses which dared to operate were smashed with rocks, in one case causing an injured taxi driver to kill a pedestrian in South Bogotá. Nails, twisted and bent per guidance in Che Guevara's handbook, were strewn about the streets. In Tulua, Department of Valle, Captain Carlos Ramirez Fernandez of the National Police was fatally stoned as he led a contingent of police agents to disperse a crowd of angry demonstrators. Three persons were arrested and charged in his death. Neither the Captain nor any of the police in the detail wore helmet liners as there are only 4,000 liners in the entire organization and most of these are in Bogotá. Bus companies, afraid to operate for fear of retaliation by the strikers, closed down all over the country. However, the Government ordered the buses to operate under guard of armed troops and police. The transportation situation gradually returned to normal by January 13.

The Panama situation, which coincided closely with the gas tax strike, caused little more than a flurry of excitement in Colombia.

GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3-year intervals.

att to OPS-2/13
PAGE 1 OF 13

DRAFTED BY: HOHardin/JDoney:jm
Public Safety
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APPROVED BY: Charles P. Fossum, Director

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Arnold H. Dadian

cc: Ambassador
RWarren, POL

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The communists met January 10 in the Ponce Theater in Bogotá in commemoration of the anniversary of the founding of the Castro Regime in Cuba, and it was rumored that the meeting would end at 5:00 p.m. with a violent demonstration culminating in an attack on the Police Station next to the theater. However, the meeting remained in session with much oratory and no action until 11:00 p.m., at which time the participants apparently went home like good fellows.

The MRL hard core applied for a permit to hold a manifestation on January 24 in Ciudad Kennedy, a low cost housing project on the outskirts of Bogotá, for the purpose of protesting "Yankee aggression" in Panama. The Mayor of Bogotá, a U.S. educated man of some stature, granted them a permit for a demonstration in the Plaza Bolívar on condition that they accept police control. Two simultaneous demonstrations were held. The largest was by the soda pop syndicates of Cundinamarca whose members converged on the Plaza in three columns from various directions replete with red capes and banners bearing signs, and with their own motorcycle escorts. This demonstration, mainly because of its color and noise, attracted about 600 spectators. The three Public Safety advisors witnessing the proceedings had to seek out the anti-Yankee demonstration, an unglamorous spectacle consisting of about 30 persons on the east fringe of the main crowd, rallying around a sign saying "Panama, sí! Yankee, no!" Thus all of the fizz was effervesced by the soda pop workers while the anti-Yankee demonstration fell flat. The demonstration was flanked on all sides by squads of white helmeted National Police armed with batons. Their disciplined appearance was very impressive.

a. Terrorism continued in scattered parts of the country with six people being wounded by a homemade bomb placed in a theater in the city of Pereira; four youths were arrested in Barranquilla for placing a bomb in the country club there and causing panic; F-2 agents of the National Police captured one culprit suspected of placing a highly explosive bomb under a bridge in Cauca seriously damaging the structure; in Cartagena several bombs have been placed in business houses and public buildings during the month; in the Department of Meta the citizens in various villages have been receiving anonymous phone calls and notes advising them to follow the communist party line and to refrain from passing information or otherwise lending assistance to government forces. The communist party has urged the people to apply pressure to have the army move out of the area. As a result, the inhabitants have requested the Minister of War to provide additional protection by reinforcing the garrisons there. In the Department of Santander, City of Barrancabermeja, individuals armed with revolvers and pistols assaulted several installations of the Texas Petroleum Company on various occasions during the month, wounding one watchman, placing two bombs at separate locations. The army and the police disarmed the bombs. Terrorists left signs reading "Kill the Imperialist Yankees" and "Down with the Puppet GOC." The signs were signed "Aurora." In Cali a terrorist bomb exploded in a factory, causing 5,000 pesos damage.

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b. Bandit activities. In Cordoba police patrols are attempting to make contact with a guerrilla band led by Fabio Isaza Rincon, alias El Mico, who is believed to have been concentrating his forces in this region. In Tolima about January 3, Colombian Army units engaged a cuadrilla commanded by Recaurte Alvarez, alias Bala Perdida. After a short fire fight, soldiers rescued a minor named Luz Maria Salcedo who had been kidnapped by the gang two days prior. One soldier was wounded. In Valle on January 3, the bandit Luis Hernando Rico, alias Guatin, was killed. In Cundinamarca on January 3 in the pueblo of Chiquinquirá on the Boyaca boundary, six men believed to belong to the Efrain Gonzales cuadrilla directed submachine gun fire from a parked bus into a crowd emerging from the bullfight arena, killing six persons, among whom were a Liberal party functionary Dr. Jose Cortes and his wife. Seven others were wounded. Dr. Cortes' two brothers were assassinated in 1960 and 1961. Two suspects were held in the January 3 killings. On January 29 on the boundary between the Departments of Boyaca and Santander del Sur, a gang believed to be Ignacio Sanchez cuadrilla stopped a bus, massacring 17 of the passengers and wounding four with Madsen submachine guns and fragmentation grenades. The dead were robbed and then mutilated with machetes. In Santander on January 5, in the Municipality of Enciso, a group of people led by the town treasurer and a soldier from the local garrison attacked a police outpost. One of the attackers was slain and the police captured the two leaders with five of their followers.

A total of 79 persons were killed by bandits during the first fifteen days of January. Table enclosed as Annex III this report contains a one year tabulation (8-62 to 8-63) of National Police killed in action against bandits, bandits killed by National Police, and bandits captured by National Police.

c. Criminal activities. Outstanding crimes during the month included a mid-morning robbery of the Bank of Commerce in Chapinero, a crowded shopping district in Bogotá on January 23, by five bandits armed with submachine guns. After taking more than 132,000 pesos from the bank and wounding a teller, the bandits ran out firing wildly and fled in a stolen auto, eluding police chase. Several police agents engaged the group as they ran from the bank, but the police were armed only with revolvers and were out-gunned. No arrests have been made to date. In Antioquia, city of Medellín, several well-armed bandits gained entry to the Argos Cement Company offices, pistol whipped the employees, and made off with 102,000 pesos. Three suspects were arrested. On January 2 in Medellín, armed bandits took 200,000 pesos from the management offices of a filling station chain. F-2 agents of the National Police captured a well known bandit, Raul Antonio Loaiza, alias El Cura, as the ringleader in this robbery. In Barranquilla, Department of Atlantico, on January 9 a messenger was relieved of 180,000 pesos at gunpoint by two bandits who seriously wounded a bystander in an exchange of gunfire. A tax driver was later arrested and confessed to being a participant. In Villa Rosario, Northern Santander, four men dressed as policemen held up a private residence and took 150,000 pesos.

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d. International activities. In the Department of Chocó, Panamanian boats supposedly engaged in fishing along the coast have been observed unloading passengers in a clandestine manner near the villages of Vitudu, Bahia de Copica and Cabo Marzo. One of the boats bore the name "Marilys."

II. OPERATIONS

Mr. Herbert O. Hardin, Chief Public Safety Advisor, entered on duty on January 7 and has been engaged in acquainting himself with the Public Safety Program, renewing previous acquaintances with Colombian officials and holding conferences regarding public safety matters. Among discussions held were:

January 17 - Meeting with Minister of War Ruiz. A number of items were discussed, including retention by the army of 1,000 M-1 carbines provided by AID for the National Police in the violence areas, training of National Police in the United States, firearms training and other instruction in the country, and reassignment of the criminal investigative function to the National Police.

January 23 - Director General of National Police, General Saulo Gil Ramirez Sendoya. The same items as mentioned in the discussion with General Ruiz were discussed in greater detail and, in addition, the police public relations program was gone over.

Results of these and other discussions are as follows:

- a. The carbines were released to the National Police on January 18.
- b. The National Police have requested 12 places in the next General Session at IAPA and will request additional spaces for subsequent courses. Places in IPA sessions and the National Academy will also be requested.
- c. A public relations program is to be implemented by the National Police, to be initiated with the training of a public relations officer for the police in each Department.
- d. The Minister of War will throw his support behind assuring that the criminal investigative role will be vested exclusively in the National Police rather than being only nominally under the National Police with actual control being exercised by the Ministry of Justice, as is being advocated within this ministry. DAS functionaries have also agreed to support the National Police interest.
- e. A stronger voice for the National Police will be sought on the committee for judicial reform in the Ministry of Justice, and this representation will be assisted by AID Public Safety advisors.

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f. The police dog training school at the School for Carabineros will be able to accommodate police participants from other Latin American countries. (Emphasis here is on countering rural banditry, and the dogs are being used with a good degree of success in the violence areas. Details on the training program will be furnished when available.)

Training

The Rural Police Training School opened at Espinal on January 13 with twelve National Police officers enrolled. All of these officers are on duty in the violence area. The courses are heavily weighted with counter-banditry tactics.

During the month seven in-service training classes in firearms safety were initiated in the Villavicencia area, with 235 students receiving instruction.

A number of USIS/training films on police operations and related subjects were shown at police stations and schools in the Bogotá area, and two police agents were trained as projectionists by USAID Public Safety advisors.

A new course in criminal investigation by uniformed police was initiated at Station VI in Bogotá. It is a one hour class and consists of a crime scene pantomime followed by discussion and questions. Approximately 150 ~~x9~~ police have attended.

Ten thousand plastic cal. .38 training cartridges for close range practice are being purchased and will be distributed to the National Police within 60 days.

Communications

The National Police have stressed the need for tactical radio nets in cities other than Bogotá. A technical study of the problem is planned.

The Ministry of Government SSB network is not progressing satisfactorily. The installation in Guajira has not begun. In a meeting with the Minister of Government it was learned that the contract with Teletec provides that the Ministry of Government pay all expenses of Teletec personnel during their time in the field on installation and maintenance projects. Since there are insufficient funds in the budget to pay these expenses, the Ministry is scheduling installation of the Bogotá Station, a lower priority, ahead of the Guajira project. USAID plans to recommend a review of the contract with a view to its amendment to include more workable terms.

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III. EVALUATION

January appeared to be a normal month for Colombia with respect to urban terrorism, rural violence, and general lawlessness. The enthusiastic response of the National Police to the advice and other assistance offered by USAID reflects a genuine desire to address the above problems and improve its capacity to handle them.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommend that AID/W attempt to locate a police specialist in bomb disposal to put on an intensive two week course for the police of Colombia in discovery and disarmament of bombs. Fluency in Spanish language is desirable but not essential.
2. Recommend early arrival of the penal consultants requested in TOAID A-1108.
3. Request assistance in locating excess items listed in TOAID A-1187.

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13ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY (DAS)I. SITUATION

During January the Chief of DAS continued his efforts to strengthen his organization administratively. Lt. Col. Arturo Garcia Patiño, former Chief of Programming and Analysis, replaced Dr. Guillermo Escobar Zapata who was considered a weak administrator as Chief of Public Order.

On January 29, 1964, DAS agents located a clandestine radio station in Bogotá, arrested its operator, and seized incriminating evidence linking this station with Castro-Communist elements as well as with terrorist activity. The operator of this station was shown to have spent eight months in Cuba in 1962-63, probably in training for this assignment. The maximum penalty for his alleged offense is two years imprisonment. Several important errors were made in the handling of this case and discussions between the Investigations Advisor and DAS officials should result in future improvement. (See memorandum-Attachment A). Nevertheless the case resulted in favorable press comment and the source of information is being further developed. (See clipping attached).

The new anti-terrorism group in the Public Order Section is making progress in the development of files and active investigations regarding terrorists.

II. OPERATIONS

Several important steps in the implementation of the OPS recommendations for DAS were taken by DAS. They are summarized as follows:

a. As the result of several more sessions with DAS officials and representatives of the Minister of Justice, details of the proposed new presidential decree for DAS were worked out. This decree will be presented along with the other provisions for judicial reform and will incorporate the OPS recommendations.

b. Provisions were established within the Technical Division of DAS for twenty of the Technical Officers called for in the OPS report. The five most experienced technicians will receive the title of "Oficial Tecnico" and the corresponding salary after a short but intensive period of training and examination. The remaining fifteen will be selected after a more extended period of training and practice.

c. Construction is continuing on the Rural Security School at Agua Azul.

d. Planning for the Llanos communications net is well advanced.

e. Twenty-five DAS officers are in training in the current general session at IAPA.

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f. Within the limitations of available personnel the Foreigner Control Division of DAS is placing more emphasis upon internal security investigations involving foreigners. However, it is noted that some of the best investigators in this division have been drawn away to other work and will probably not be available to Foreigner Control until the New DAS Decree has been implemented.

PIO/C's covering the commodity aid for DAS during the current year will be completed in February for presidential signature corresponding approximately with the presentation of the new organic decree implementing OPS recommendations.

An important factor for DAS in meeting this agency's heavy security responsibilities will be the quality of liaison between DAS and the Ministry of Justice. The purpose of such liaison will be to orient the Minister regarding the priority of intelligence over prosecutive investigations, so that cases will not have to be submitted prematurely to the judges, so that judges will be more carefully selected in these cases, and so that informants and confidential sources will be protected. OPS is taking steps to bring about such a liaison.

The preliminary survey of the Rurales radio stations in the Llanos area has been completed. SSB communication between Bogotá and El Yopal will need to be established when the Ministry of Government stations in Bogotá are completed. A sub-net of the Rurales stations in the Llanos will then be established with El Yopal as control.

In Bogotá DAS operates a monitoring and recording station. The recording equipment is old, dilapidated, and ~~was~~ designed for home use. It is proposed to replace this equipment with multi-channel recorders and provide a new installation plan and a more efficient operational plan.

III. EVALUATION

Progress in effecting the OPS recommendations for DAS appears satisfactory to date.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

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13ATTACHMENT "A"SUBJECT: Castulo Heli Barba Rincon, Clandestine Radio Station

As the result of the abominable way subject case was handled by DAS the writer requested a top level conference with DAS officials including the Chief, Rol. Rojas Martinez, the Chief of Public Order, Col. Arturo Garcia Patiño, Chief Coordinator, Constantino Galindo, and the Chief of Operations, Dr. Saul Amezquita. This meeting took place on 1 January at 2:30 p.m. and lasted until 5:45 p.m. The writer began with a series of remarks concerning the purpose of his presence in DAS and the purpose of the assistance that was being given. He stated that the President expected, as the principal result of this program, the development in DAS of an intelligence service of professional caliber capable of making the best of each intelligence opportunity, and that he expected periodic confidential reports on the progress in this direction. He pointed out that the subject case was the best opportunity presented to DAS during the past year to effectively attack the subversive and terrorist elements in Colombia through a discreet surveillance of well organized, and coordinated enemy communications net. The handling of this case shows that little progress has been made in the desired direction and tends to cast doubt on the entire program, at least in the eyes of an impartial observer. It was further pointed out that numerous other potential informants will undoubtedly be frightened away, and a similar opportunity cannot be expected to arise in the near future. The writer requested a thorough discussion of this case in order to point up the errors and suggest corrective measures.

The discussion which followed created the general impression that this case was handled in an incredibly casual manner without considerations of security, nor discussions of the intelligence opportunity presented. The informant originally made contact with the Cali field office of DAS, after which the vital information together with the identify of the informant was dispatched by telegram in plain text to Bogotá. The Chief of Public Order received the telegram and as he happened to be attending a meeting that day of the joint defense intelligence board he took the liberty of showing it to one of the members without having mentioned it as yet to his Chief, Col. Rojas, Realizing later that he had let the cat out of the bag he hurriedly handed the matter to a group chief who got some agents together and went out and raided the clandestine station, detained the subject and picked up the evidence available on the premises in order to prevent the police or military authorities from beating them to it. At this point Col. Garcia Patiño ~~he~~ decided he should consult some others within his own organization. The writer then became aware of the case, and the only possible advice was to interrogate the subject, record the evidence, try to save the informant, and try to keep out of the way of the various military and police agents combing the area. The subject had to be handed over to a judge within 12 hours and there

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followed numerous press releases variously attributing credit for the investigation to DAS, F-2, and the Army authorities. While the informant has not yet been identified in the press he has exhibited a state of extreme and justified nervousness. There is some possibility that DAS can continue to control him, but it is very doubtful because he has been identified to military authorities.

The discussion of the various errors in this case with the officials concerned should be helpful in tightening up DAS security measures and investigative procedures. Col. Garcia Patiño is new in the Public Order Section and failed to realize the importance of this matter. However he has several years experience in DAS and appears to be sincere and conscientious. He asked the writer's advice on how to conduct himself on the Joint Defense Board and it was suggested that he not be overcome with the weight of rank, that he conduct himself as a full equal, and concentrate on educating the members of this Board concerning DAS jurisdiction and responsibilities. It was explained that the "collaboration" for which the Board was created should consist of each service attending to his own business the best he can and that any information disseminated should be in writing and should be approved in advance by Col. Rojas. The information should not reveal information or matters of current investigative interest. This procedure was agreed upon. Finally, it was pointed out that the responsibility in this kind of investigation rests with DAS and no blame can be placed upon another agency or service. It remains for DAS, therefore, to establish norms, protect its own jurisdiction, integrity, and sources of information without reliance on other agencies.

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<u>Place, Type and Length of training</u>	<u>Entered Training This Month</u>	<u>Total in Training</u>	<u>Completed This Month</u>	<u>Completed This date</u>
<u>U.S. Training</u>				
12 week Gen. Course IAPA	30	30		
<u>Local Training</u>				
Firearms - 2 hour Revolver (Retraining)	235		235	235
Basic Investigation one hour	150		150	150

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ANNEX II A

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMODITIES DELIVERED

ITEMS	QUANTITIES			CUMULATIVE DOLLAR VALUE	DISPOSITION CONDITION
	PIO/C	THIS MONTH	TO DATE		
Megaphones	5-30719		18	1,800.00	Good to Nat. Police
Binoculars	5-30719		18	3,458.00	Good to Nat. Police
Laboratory Supplies	0-30757			5,572.00	Good to DAS
Vehicles	5-30716		102	181,900.00	Good to Nat. Police
Projectors	5-30719		10	4,500.00	Good to Nat. Police
Police Weapons (Riot guns, revolvers)	5-30715		2,100	83,359.00	Good to Nat. Police
Cameras	0-30757	20	20	800.00	Good to DAS
16 mm projectors and accessories	0-30757	2	2	900.65	Good to DAS
Carbines, Cal. .30 M-1	30715	1,000	1,000		Good to Nat. Police

ANNEX II B

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMODITIES NOT DELIVERED WHERE
UNDUE DELAY EXISTS

Vehicles	5-30756	-	-	-	-
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ANNEX II C

PIO/C'S ISSUED THIS MONTH

None

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PERIODIC REPORT - BANDITRY
 REGIONAL LICED PERSONNEL KILLED IN COMBATING BANDITRY

101

Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. June. July. TOTAL

ANTIOQUIA	1	1																		2
CALDAS		2		1																5
CAUCA	1		1	3																5
GUNDIRAMARCA																				1
HUILA					2					1										3
TOLIMA			11	2	4			4	2	2	4	1								29
VALLE			5	2	1			3	1											12
	2	8	14	7	6			7	4	5	1	1	1	2						57

BANDITS KILLED BY POLICE ACTION

ANTIOQUIA	1	4	2	1		2	2	3												16
BOYACA		1	3																	4
CALDAS			4	2	3	2		1												12
CAUCA			1	4	3	1														10
GUNDIRAMARCA			2																	2
HUILA		1		2	2	2		2												5
SANTANDER	1	2		2	1	1														3
TOLIMA	2	1	11	7	8	1		1												35
VALLE	17	3	4	2	11	2		5		2	2	2								48
PUTUMAYO																				2
	21	12	27	20	28	0		11	4	4	4	3								150

BANDITS CAPTURED BY THE POLICE

ANTIOQUIA	15	11		7	3	2	10	21	2	41	22	16								150
BOYACA	12			1								13								13
CALDAS	7	27	21	24	10	11	17	5	9	1	6	144								144
CAUCA	19			10		3	2	1	1	1	7	40								40
CAUCA												3								3
CAUCA																				3
GUNDIRAMARCA	3	5	1	2	4	4	3	6	1	1	1	21								21
HUILA		2		1	5	1	11	21	5		3	67								67
HUILA												1								1
SANTANDER	4			5			2					11								11
TOLIMA	25	14	15	7	6	9	9	18	12	2	11	150								150
VALLE	50	10	5	14	3	7	20	18	3	5	7	5								147
	135	69	32	70	31	47	75	83	38	51	57	39								747

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