

AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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March 4, 1965

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FROM - BOGOTA

SUBJECT - Monthly Report of Public Safety Division
January 1965

REFERENCE

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I. SITUATION

The first month of 1965 was an eventful one with respect to internal stability in Colombia. The three most notable incidents were the planting of a bomb in the Embassy, the resignation of the Minister of War, Alberto RUIZ Novoa, and the ELN attack on the town of Simacota in the Department of Santander. There was also the general strike which was averted through negotiation and maneuvering by the Government of Colombia. These incidents are described in detail in separate Embassy messages.

Citizen deaths from urban violence rose considerably over last month and there has been an outbreak of kidnappings for ransom. With exception of a major bank robbery during which a cashier was ruthlessly slain in Bogotá, urban crime appeared to take a sharp drop from the previous month.

The following figures were extracted from National Police Daily Intelligence Bulletins:

Rural Violence

Citizens murdered by bandits -----
Citizens wounded by bandits -----
National Police murdered by bandits -----

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2676 of phone 7998

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DRAFTED BY:
HOhardin; tmt
JHDoney

OFFICE
Public Safety

PHONE NO. DATE
2/23/65

APPROVED BY:
James R. Fowler, Director

AID AND OTHER CLEARANCES
SEaton:DD

SComiskey:EMB POL

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National Police wounded by bandits -----	10
Bandits captured by National Police -----	51
Bandits killed by National Police -----	5
Bandits wounded by National Police -----	2
Bandits murdered by Bandits -----	2
Citizens kidnapped by bandits for ransom -----	7
Fincas attacked -----	13
National Police patrols attacked -----	2
Highway robbery (Hi-jackings trucks, busses, private cars, payrolls)-----	7

In the case of the attack on the town of Simacota, National Police and DAS carried out a raid on a house in Bucaramanga where they arrested three persons suspected of having taken part in the attack. They also found the Bogotá address of the printer suspected of having jobbed the propaganda leaflets distributed in the course of the attack, a packet of the leaflets, and an airline ticket to France for an alien with a Bogotá address. About 18 other arrests have been made but some of the suspects have been released.

With respect to the kidnappings, there is evidence to indicate that some of the money obtained as ransom is being used to finance the ELN and other bandit gangs. The most nefarious of the kidnappings to date involves supporters of former dictator, ROJAS Pinilla, up through the congressional level. Some of the gangs involved have been broken up through collaboration of DAS, the National Police, and military authorities. However, the abductions continued through the end of the month.

Terrorism

Bombs placed and/or exploded -----	4
Arson -----	5

The homemade dynamite bomb which was placed in the elevator lobby outside the USAID reception desk on January 20, 1965, was timed to explode at 6:30 p.m.. A charwoman discovered the bomb and it was disarmed by the Custodian of the Seguros Bolivar Building in which the Embassy is located. The bomb was accompanied by a stack of propaganda leaflets denouncing the visit of Assistant Secretary of State, Thomas Mann. DAS is currently analyzing the bomb and investigating the case. Special precautions were taken by DAS in collaboration with the National Police for the security of Mr. Mann's visit.

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Civil Turbulence

Riots ----- 1
 Demonstrations and Manifestations ----- 2
 Strikes ----- 13

Urban Crime

Citizens murdered by gangsters --- 3
 Citizens wounded by gangsters --- 1
 National Police murdered by gangsters ----- 2
 National Police wounded by gangsters ----- 4
 DAS personnel murdered by gangsters ----- 1
 Gangsters captured by National Police ----- 3
 Gangsters killed by National Police ----- 2
 Gangsters wounded by National Police ----- 1

In a spectacular move, four bandits armed with submachine guns and revolvers descended on La Soledad Branch of the Bank of London and Montreal in Bogotá at 10:30 a.m., January 15, 1965, holding employees and customers at bay while they scooped up 135,000 pesos. One of the bandits deliberately shot the cashier who was offering no resistance. The victim died shortly thereafter. The gang left the bank, located in a busy shopping area, firing wildly, and escaped in a taxi which they had hi-jacked from its owner a short while before.

On the morning of January 14, 1965, a DAS agent, attempting to arrest Paul MULLER, international gangster of Spanish citizenship, was shot to death by the Subject. Muller fled, but was intercepted a short distance from the scene by a National Police agent who was seriously wounded. Muller continued his flight, but was finally overcome by one agent from the National Police and two from DAS. A citizen attempting to aid the police was wounded by Muller.

The situation in the National Police remained static with the newly transferred officers familiarizing themselves with their new duties. The resignation of the Minister of War, General Alberto RUIZ Novoa, and the appointment of General Gabriel REBEIS Pizarro as Minister of War is a highly significant development for the National Police and DAS. Whereas the Chief of DAS and General Ruiz are bitter enemies and do not speak to each other, Colonel Rojas and General Rebeis and their families are intimate friends. Thus a better working relationship between DAS, the National Police and the Military should result from this change.

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In January, Major Manuel Guillermo PACHON de la Torre was appointed by the Chief of DAS to head the newly created Department of Public Relations of DAS. He was replaced as head of the General Services Division by Dr. Guillermo ESCOBAR Zapata. Major Pachón is an excellent choice for Public Relations Director because of his proven ability and his influential contacts with the press, other government agencies, and the public in general. He is an IAPA graduate and a close friend of the USAID Public Safety Division. No other important personnel changes occurred in DAS during January.

Some of the accomplishments of DAS during January are:

- 1) The breaking up of a gang of bootleggers in Bogotá;
- 2) Obtaining prosecution of 3 members of the gang of "Chino" Osorio, mad-dog gangster killed by DAS agents in December;
- 3) The trapping of a gang of eight kidnapers in Neiva;
- 4) Capture of Otoniel Colorado, alias "Tormento", former member of the cuadrilla of Sangre Negra, in Tolima;
- 5) Capture of 500,000 pesos worth of contraband near Girardot with nine of the runners;
- 6) Capture of Gonzalo Ortiz Serrano wanted for murder and other crimes;
- 7) Capture of Aldemar Medina, alias "Capitán Sandino", wanted for kidnapping.

II. OPERATIONS

On January 18, 1965, 18 more non-commissioned officers entered the AID Sponsored Police Training Course at Espinal. A number of Departments are represented in this group.

During a recent trip to Tolima, the Rural Public Safety Advisor recommended the extension of this training to include newly recruited agents undergoing their recruit training at Espinal. The Departmental Commander expressed the opinion that a block of such instruction could profitably be included in the curriculum. This will also be taken up with the F-3 Officer at Headquarters in Bogotá. The idea is believed to be especially worthwhile since this school trains recruit policemen for the Departments of Valle and Cauca as well as Tolima.

The Departments most affected by Banditry in one form or another are making attempts to provide in-service counterbandit training to the personnel working in the rural areas.

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During the latter part of the month, the Rural Public Safety Advisor traveled to the Departments of Tolima and Santander to discuss current problems with the National Police Officials in those departments, to make any pertinent on-the-spot recommendations, and to report on the general situation, at the same time making recommendations to the General Directorate in Bogotá. Confidential versions of the reports were forwarded to AID/W under cover of TOAID A-789.

The installation of the Common User (Minister of Government) System continues. All stations have been installed except the permanent Bogotá (Monserrate), San Andrés, San José de Guaná, Morichales, Facos, Miritiparaná, La Chorrera and El Encanto. In Bogotá work on the Communications Center continues with local teletype lines to National Police, DAS, and Adusma in and working.

On January 5, 1965, the Telecommunications Advisor and his assistant made a visit to Macarena with Major Galán of the Ministry of Government to see if this city could be added to the Caqueta part of the Common User System. A complete report on this system was started and is expected to be completed in February.

In response to an urgent request from AID/W, a survey was made of the communications available in the Department of Santander (see Joint Embassy/USAID Rmtel 941).

None of the communications commodities ordered from FY 64 funds on type "5" PIO/C's have arrived. This is materially retarding progress on the telecommunications project, a most vital area because of the appearance of new violence in parts of the country.

The establishment of the new Public Relations Division of DAS is in fulfillment of one of the principal recommendations of the Public Safety Program and is a direct result of the recent visit of the Chief of DAS to the United States as a State Department Leadership Grantee. His observation of the Public Relations programs of the FBI, the Chicago and Los Angeles Police Departments, and others which he visited has convinced him of the need for emphasis on this type of activity. The appointment of Major Manuel Guillermo PACHEM de la Torre to head this new Division is considered an excellent choice. He is a graduate of IAPA.

The assignment of a selected group of DAS agents exclusively to internal security investigations in the Bogotá area is now bringing positive results in the form of increased intelligence production from their efforts in the surveillance and penetration of subversive and terrorist groups. The equipment to be delivered under the FY 65 program

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and the return of Epaminondas GORDILLO, Supervisor of the group, from his current tour of training in the United States will greatly enhance the capabilities of this group.

Colonel Enrique MILLAN, graduate of Senior Course No. 2, IPA, is now utilizing investigative techniques learned in the United States to improve the already efficient intelligence coverage in his sector, which includes the "Independent Republics" of Marquetalia, Rio Chiquito, El Pato, and Guayeboro. The Investigations Advisor has suggested that as soon as possible, Colonel Millán dictate a series of conferences in the various field offices of DAS for the benefit of those field office chiefs who are less effective in gathering and reporting internal security intelligence.

The Embassy requested that the Public Safety Division cooperate with State Department Security Agents in taking necessary security measures for the visit of Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, Thomas Mann, planned for January 31 to February 2, 1965. Both DAS and the National Police cooperated in this effort which was observed throughout by the Investigations Advisor and the State Department Agents. While no difficult situations arose, it is believed that the exercise will prove extremely valuable in future visits of high-level officials.

III.

The Simacota attack was not followed up by similar attacks in January, nor was it coordinated with any well organized campaign of urban terrorism. This would indicate that extremist forces with external support have not yet reached a stage of development where they can mount sustained and coordinated rural and urban attacks. On the other hand there is reason to believe that external efforts to promote such attacks will continue on an intensified basis, perhaps being expanded to entice participation of criminal bandit gangs currently without political orientation.

Strong direction, intensified training, added mobility and communications for DAS and the National Police, and coordination between them and the Armed Forces, with each group playing its role within its own area of responsibility, are vital factors in suppressing these activities before they reach levels which would pose threat to national stability. Without assuming an overly optimistic or complacent attitude, the USAID Public Safety Division is of the opinion that the new violence outbreaks and underlying operations can be effectively controlled by ensuring the reality of the factors mentioned above.

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IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a replacement for the Rural Public Safety Advisor (incumbent resigning at end of tour) be recruited as soon as possible to provide an overlap and avoid activity lag.

2. That action be continued to ensure early delivery of commodities shown as delinquent on II(b).

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MONTHLY TRAINING REPORT
NATIONAL POLICE
ANNEX I (A)
JANUARY, 1965

PLACE, TYPE AND LENGTH OF TRAINING	ENTERED TRAINING THIS MONTH	TOTAL IN TRAINING	COMPLETED TRAINING THIS MONTH	COMPLETED TRAINING, TO DATE
IAPA/PANAMA 12 WEEKS GENERAL COURSE		U.S. TRAINING		2
IPA/WASHINGTON 16 WEEKS GENERAL COURSE	8	15	8	24
IAPA/PANAMA ONE WEEK BOMB DISPOSAL COURSE				2
USE OF THE BATON		LOCAL TRAINING		18,000
ONE HOUR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION COURSE				300
PATROL METHODS ONE WEEK COURSE				4,404
DRIVER TRAINING TWO WEEKS COURSE				450
REVOLVER REFRESHER TRAINING, TWO HOUR COURSE				4,470
FBI-PPC REVOLVER TRAINING, TWENTY HOUR COURSE				107
AUDIO-VISUAL TWO WEEKS TRAINING COURSE				24
COUNTER-BANDIT TRAINING, TEN WEEKS DURATION	18	18	21	66
PUBLIC RELATIONS TWO WEEKS TRAINING COURSE				21
COUNTER-BANDIT TRAINING, SPECIAL THREE WEEKS COURSE				450

* ABOVE TRAINING IS IN ADDITION TO TRAINING CONDUCTED BY SEVEN POLICE SCHOOLS IN SEVEN POLICE COMMANDS IN THE COUNTRY AND THE OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL "GENERAL SANTANDER".

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MONTHLY TRAINING REPORT
DEPARTAMENTO ADMINISTRATIVO DE SEGURIDAD (DAS)
ANNEX I (B) - JANUARY, 1965

PLACE, TYPE AND LENGTH OF TRAINING	ENTERED TRAINING THIS MONTH	TOTAL IN TRAINING	COMPLETED TRAINING THIS MONTH	COMPLETED TRAINING, TO DATE
IPA, 12 WEEKS SENIOR COURSE IAPA/PANAMA		U.S. TRAINING	1	1
12 WEEKS GENERAL COURSE IAPA/WASHINGTON				41
16 WEEKS GENERAL COURSE IAPA/PANAMA	10	15		26
1 WEEK BOMB DISPOSAL COURSE IAPA/PANAMA				7
5 WEEKS INTERNAL SECURITY COURSE U.S. POST OFFICE				30
GRAPHOLOGY, 6 MONTHS COURSE TELETYPE MAINTENANCE, 5 WEEKS, CHICAGO		1		1
INTERNAL SECURITY SUPERVISORY WASHINGTON 10 WEEKS	1	1		
20 HOUR REVOLVER TRAINING FBI-PPC COURSE (X)				118
SENA, SSB RADIO COURSE, 6 MONTHS MEDELLIN		5		
RURAL SECURITY SCHOOL AGUA AZUL			36	36
INTERNAL SECURITY COURSE BOGOTA		12		
DAS ACADEMY, SUBA NEW AGENTS - 3 mos. IN-SERVICE - 3 mos.				132
TECHNICAL CRIMINOLOGY 4 mos.		47		75
CONFERENCES IN FIELD OFFICE BY IAPA GRADUATES				630

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ANNEX II (a)

NATIONAL POLICE

Public Safety Commodities received - None.

ANNEX II (b)

"Public Safety Commodities not Received (Long-lead times)":

PIO/C Number	Date Issued	Delivery Date	Item Number	General Description
514-066-5-31106 31106	7/9/64	12/31/64	40-41	Multiplex Speech-Plus tone unit Automotive Tele-type Machine

ANNEX II (c)

NATIONAL POLICE

"Public Safety PIO/C's issued this month":

PIO/C Number	Delivery Date	Dollar Value	General Description
514-066-84815	12/13/64	\$6,000.00	Generating Plant and Automatic Line Transformer Control
514-066-5-40126	6/12/65		

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