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Department of State

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2398
REVIEWED by MM DATE 8/30
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 DENY DECLASSIFY in PART
 Non-responsive info.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA, 03144 PA exemptions
ARA FOR AMBASSADOR TAMBS CLASSIFY as _____ TS authority to: _____
 DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, CADR, _____

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: N/A
SUBJECT: NARC/FARC CONNECTION

FOLLOWING IS THE NARC/FARC INFORMATION READ TO MEDIA
BY AL LAUN. BEGIN TEXT.

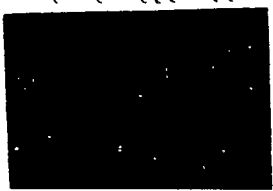
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FARC AND NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS.

THE FARC IS THE LARGEST, OLDEST, BEST-EQUIPPED,
BEST-TRAINED, AND POTENTIALLY MOST DANGEROUS
SUBVERSIVE GROUP IN COLOMBIA. IT HAS APPROXIMATELY
2,000 ACTIVE MEMBERS WITH A SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE
WHICH COULD PUSH ITS NUMBERS TO 5,000 OR HIGHER.
BASICALLY A RURAL MOVEMENT, HALF OF ITS SOME 25 FRONTS
OPERATE IN THOSE AREAS WHERE COCA AND MARIJUANA ARE
CULTIVATED.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FARC AND THE NARCOTICS
TRAFFICKERS, WHICH HAS PROBABLY EXISTED FOR SOME TIME,
APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SANCTIONED BY THE FARC'S NATIONAL
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DIRECTORATE IN MAY 1982 AT THE FARC'S SEVENTH CONFERENCE.

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FROM THE MARIJUANA TRAFFICKERS ALONG THE NORTH COAST, PARTICULARLY IN THE MAGDALENA DEPARTMENT. ONE HIGH-LEVEL COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL COMMENTED PRIVATELY THAT THE FARC FRONT IN THE GUAVIARE REGION HAD REAPED APPROXIMATELY 99 MILLION U.S. DOLLARS FROM THEIR COCA CROPS. THUS, WE CAN BE FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT WHEREVER A FARC FRONT OPERATES AND TRAFFICKING IS CARRIED ON, SOME ARRANGEMENT EXISTS BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS. IN ADDITION, THE FARC TO A LESSER DEGREE HAS ENGAGED IN THE CULTIVATION OF COCA. IN NOVEMBER 1983, THE ARMY DISCOVERED NEXT TO AN ABANDONED FARC CAMP IN SOUTHERN COLOMBIA, 90 HECTARES OF COCA AND A LABORATORY TO PROCESS THE ALKALOID. THE FARC, LONG IDENTIFIED AS THE ARMED WING OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, IS REPRESENTED IN THE PCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE BY ITS TOP LEADERSHIP. AT THE SEVENTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE, THE PCC REPRESENTED BY HERNANDO HURTADO, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, REPORTEDLY AGREED TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED FARC PLAN FOR TAKING OVER COLOMBIA WHICH INCORPORATED THE ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TRAFFICKERS. THUS, WITH THE PCC ENDORSING THE FARC/NARC CONNECTION, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE PCC IS ALSO BENEFITTING FINANCIALLY FROM THE FARC/NARC ARRANGEMENT. CAPTURED DOCUMENTS REVEAL THAT THE FARC HAS ORDERS TO

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ARA FOR AMBASSADOR TAMBS

ASSIST THE PCC IN ITS POLITICAL EFFORTS TO GAIN BETTER REPRESENTATION IN THE GOVERNMENT. WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO DRAW A PARALLEL WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING IN COLOMBIA TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BURMESE COMMUNIST PARTY, WHO, ACCORDING TO MATHEA FALCO'S 11 DECEMBER ARTICLE IN THE "NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE," CONTROLS HALF OF BURMA'S OPIUM CULTIVATION AND USES DRUG MONEY TO BUY BLACK MARKET WEAPONRY AND EQUIPMENT IN NEIGHBORING THAILAND. THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE FARC AND THE PCC SUPPORT GUERRILLA GROUPS IN NEIGHBORING CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES CAN ONLY BE GUESSED. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE FARC AND OTHER SUBVERSIVE GROUPS HAVE AIDED THEIR MARXIST/LENINIST SYMPATHIZERS THROUGH DIRECT FINANCIAL AID OR THROUGH VOLUNTEERS WHO FIGHT AND TRAIN TROOPS WITH MONEY OBTAINED THROUGH THE EXTORTION OF TRAFFICKERS. THE SOVIET UNION, WHILE MAINTAINING A LOW PROFILE IN COLOMBIA, NEVERTHELESS, MUST BE AWARE OF FARC/PCC/NARC CONNECTION, AND THROUGH ITS FAILURE TO CONDEMN SUCH ACTIVITY, GIVES ITS TACIT APPROVAL.

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THE CUBAN CONNECTION VIA A VIS THE COLOMBIAN SUBVERSIVE GROUP, THE 19TH OF APRIL MOVEMENT (M-19), WAS

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WELL-DOCUMENTED IN THE 1981 CASE OF JAIME GUILLOT LARA. WE DOUBT THAT CUBA HAS GIVEN UP THIS LUCRATIVE BUSINESS WHICH NOT ONLY PROVIDES A SOURCE OF CAPITAL BUT ALSO PROVIDES THE MEANS TO SUBVERT, CORRUPT AND UNDERMINE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES. IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING, THEN, IF THE FARC, WHICH EXERTS CONTROL IN THOSE AREAS WHERE COCA IS PRINCIPALLY PRODUCED, DEALS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THROUGH THE COMMUNIST PARTY WITH CUBA IN THIS VENTURE. END TEXT.
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