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FROM Bogota

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

REFERENCE Report Control No. U-127

I. SITUATION

GROUP 4
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A. National Police

For the second successive month in a row, the National Police scored heavily in their part of the fight to eliminate rural violence in Colombia with the killing of Jacinto CRUZ Usma, better known as "Sangre Negra," or "Black Blood."

Sangre Negra was regarded as one of the worst bandit leaders of Colombia, known for his sadistic cruelty in the torture and mutilation of his victims, for the most part defenseless men, women, children and infants. Because bloodstained cups were usually found at the scene of atrocities perpetrated by him and his cuadrilla, it was popularly believed that he and his cohorts drank the blood of their victims, although this has never been definitely established.

The Death of Sangre Negra

The following is an account of the death of Sangre Negra as received from the National Police. During the latter part of the week ending April 23, Sangre Negra contacted his brother, Felipe CRUZ Usma, a respectable citizen of the municipality of El Cairo, Department of Valle of Cauca, in an apparently desperate effort to obtain food, clothing, and money. The brother refused and received a death threat in return. It was reported that a plot was actually realized by the

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cc: Ambassador
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Arnold H. Dadian
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gang to kill Felipe CRUZ, and he notified the National Police, giving them an indication of Sangre Negra's whereabouts. At 6:30 p.m. on April 24, a second class corporal of the National Police went with five police agents to a farm near the municipality of Dovia where they encountered a part of the gang and killed one Jose A. Giraldo, alias "El Sabao," and captured Gerardo Quintero and Mariano G. Ruiz. On April 26 at 10:00 p.m. as a part of the sequence, a police sergeant and five agents intercepted a bus near the municipality of El Cairo. Several of the gang were reportedly riding the bus, and when the police boarded to inspect it, there was resistance during which one Ramiro Parra Coy, alias "Agulla Negra" or "Black Eagle," was fatally wounded by police gunfire, and "Sangre Negra" was wounded but managed to escape. At 7:00 a.m. a patrol of National Police commanded by a lieutenant and operating in the same vicinity killed two more of the gang, Jaime Rodríguez, alias "Mala Suerte" or "Bad Luck," and Delfin CARDONA Luna, alias "Cantinerero". On April 28, a patrol of National Police using police dogs and commanded by an army lieutenant discovered the body of "Sangre Negra" about one kilometer from the spot where he had been wounded by police gunfire on April 26. A military helicopter took the body to Ibague where it was viewed by an estimated 25,000 people, many of whom positively identified it as being that of the man who had led the perpetration of atrocities to which they were witnesses. All of the bandits were carrying sidearms and ammunition, which was a marked departure from the usual array of shoulder and automatic weapons, thus indicating that they were probably in flight. The elimination of "Sangre Negra" by the police leaves "Tarzan", another bandit leader, and "Tiro Fijo," a communist guerrilla leader who has involved himself in criminal activities, as the two most feared gang leaders in Tolima. Efraim Gonzales, a conservative guerrilla leader, who also engages in criminal activities remains at large in the Boyacá region. Conrado Salazar, alias "Zarpazo," a liberal band leader with a reported 20 to 40 followers, divided into three bands, is still in Northern Valle, but has been relatively inactive recently.

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General Situation

Otherwise, the situation in Colombia was comparatively quiet during the month, with fewer reported deaths from rural violence. However, some communist elements are attempting to arouse opposition to GOC attempts to pacify the Marquetalia area where "Tiro Fijo" is said to be able to muster 200-250 armed men, while Ciro Trujillo Castaño, another communist guerrilla leader, is quoted by a DAS intelligence report as being able to muster around 800 men (armed), among them farmers and other normally peaceful residents in the area. There is widespread propaganda being waged against GOC efforts. In the rural areas, girls are boarding buses and distributing leaflets of several different varieties calculated to stimulate opposition. National Police have arrested several of these workers. The leaflets are also being distributed in Bogotá campuses of the National University and the Free University. A great deal of painting and posting on walls is going on. Some of the propaganda implicates the U.S., one leaflet accusing the U.S. of providing arms to 15,000 Colombian

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soldiers to be used against Colombians in that region. Some of the material ignores alleged U.S. "intervention." Whether attempts to pacify the region will erupt into another wave of violence remains to be seen.

Pressure on Bandits

The commanders of National Police in the Department of Cúcuta and in the Guajira report that pressure by the National Police and the military forces on the bandit gangs operating in the violence areas is causing the cuadrillas to move into their respective areas where they can move back and forth across the Venezuelan border.

Rural Violence

Department of Antioquia, Municipality of Amagá, April 12, one National Police agent, one passerby killed, one agent wounded in gunfight with one bandit who was also wounded.

Department of Cundinamarca, Municipality of San Juan de Rioseco, April 6, National Police captured four bandits belonging to the gang of "Sangre Negra."

Department of Tolima: April 1, Municipality of Coyaima, National Police captured one member of the gang led by Placido Aragon, alias "Captain Tolima."

April 4, Municipality of Ortega, National Police killed one member of gang of Vicente Caycedo, alias "Arbolito."

April 23, Municipality of Rioblanco, the body of a man who had been collaborating with the police against the bandits was found containing bullet holes and bearing a note, "This is what happens to those who mingle with the dogs."

Department of Cauca, no date, Municipality of Silvia, a gang of twenty bandits with shoulder weapons, believed, according to a National Police report, to be part of the gang of Ciro Trujillo Castaño, have been seen in the vicinity, and are attempting to find out how many police are stationed in this area. However, this is quite far from Ciro's area of operation, therefore, it is questionable that they are Ciro's men.

Department of Valle: April 2, Municipality of Caicedonia, National Police captured bandit member of gang of Manuel ALVAREZ Torres, alias "Arturo." April 2, another member of the gang was captured.

April 9, near the city of Seville, a bandit gang kidnapped the 14-year old son of a cattle rancher and held him for 200,000 pesos ransom, but

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settled a week later for 50,000, after which they released the boy. He was able to name one member of the gang as Captain Varilla, saying that the gang was composed of 30 to 40 members, many of whom wore uniforms.

April 17, Municipality of Alcalá, National Police killed a bandit who had broken jail, after having escaped from the Penal Colony of "Alaska." He was a member of the gang of Victor Julio Ardila.

Municipality of Cartago, date not known, police received intelligence that the gang of Conrado SALAZAR Garcia, alias "Zarpazo," were planning assaults on several police posts for the purpose of obtaining additional arms and ammunition.

Municipality of Riofrio, date not known, a gang of eight under the command of one H. Giraldo, alias "El Brujo," have shown up in this area and are marauding residents. They are armed with San Cristobal carbines, shot guns and revolvers.

April 24, Municipality of El Docio, National Police killed two and captured two persons who were members of the gang of Manuel ALVAREZ Torres.

Department of Caldas: April 22, Municipality of Montenegro, National Police killed three members of the bandit gang of Jorge Sepulveda Estrada, alias "La Gata." They were in possession of miscellaneous small arms, ammunition, and seven army uniforms.

Department of Santander: April 29, Municipality of Vélez, a mixed National Police-Army patrol killed one bandit, captured two men and two women, who were members of the gang of Hector ARDILA Galvis, alias "El Tigre."

Terrorism

Department of Antioquia, April 15, City of Medellin, unknown subjects threw a molotov cocktail bomb against a police vehicle driven by an agent who received a deep head wound in attempting to capture the suspects.

Department of Valle: April 16, Cali, a bomb exploded in a residence where a student boards and had been receiving telephone threats from communist elements. No injuries or damage. Some day a bomb exploded in another house several blocks distant. There were no injuries, and slight damage.

Department of Meta: April 16, Municipality of Granada, unknown persons bombed a house, killing a father and two minor sons.

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Common Crimes

Bogotá: April 9, shortly after 7 00 a.m. a police agent assigned to fixed post duty at the home of Major Guillermo CUADROS Corredor, Deputy Commander of National Police in the Bogotá District, was assassinated without warning by three gunmen who alighted from a taxi in front of the residence in Chapinero and opened fire on the agent, killing him instantly. The three took the dead agent's Madsen submachine gun and fled in the taxi. Shortly before the killing, the three had badly beaten another taxi driver who had refused to serve their purpose. It is believed that the motive for the killing was nothing more than to obtain the weapon in order to perpetrate other crimes.

Department of Cundinamarca: April 11, on the road near Soacha, three masked men hijacked a truck, relieving the driver of 5,000 pesos.

Department of Santander: April 10, City of Bucaramanga, six armed subjects held up a jewelry store and fled with 200,000 pesos in jewelry.

Department of Valle: April 9, City of Cali, the watchman of an electrical appliance factory was found murdered in the plant, and thieves had made off with 60,000 pesos in appliances.

Department of Atlantico: April 17, City of Barranquilla, unidentified armed subjects robbed a man of 35,000 pesos in his home.

Miscellaneous

Department of Boyacá, April 28, Municipality of Almeida, a National Police patrol encountered three known hoodlums slaughtering a stolen beef. The three resisted, with the result that one was killed, one wounded, and one captured. Arrest orders had been outstanding for the latter.

Department of Cordoba, no date, Municipality of Los Cereté, an Hacienda owner has been receiving anonymous notes demanding payment of 15,000 pesos under threat of death.

Department of Valle, April 29, City of Palmira, 28 revolvers were stolen from the armory in the National Penitentiary. No clues are available.

Projected return of Col. Camacho Leyva

General Saulo Gil RAMIREZ Sendoya, Director General of the National Police, informed the Public Safety Division that he had requested the return of Col. Bernardo CAMACHO Leyva, former Chief of Staff in the National Police, from London where he has been serving as Civil Attaché in the Colombian Embassy. General Ramirez' request is based on his stated need

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for an able chief of staff on whom he can depend to handle the day-to-day administration of the National Police while the General devotes himself to policy matters of a broader nature. Col. Camacho has a proven reputation for being a strong and able administrator. He was sent to London in August, 1963, and the exact reason was never determined. However, he is known to have the complete confidence of General Ramirez. He was replaced as Chief of Staff by Col. Juan Felix Mosquera, reputedly a friend of the Minister of War and regarded as a non-entity with a history of mental illness. The Public Safety Division is inclined to view the President's decision to return Col. Camacho as an indication of General Ramirez' good standing with the President.

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B. Administrative Department of Security (DAS)

There was no significant change in the situation in DAS during April.

Public Safety has maintained contact with the Committee for Judicial Reform, has received preliminary information regarding the proposed decrees effecting the Public Safety Program, and has suggested certain additions and modifications. A special report is being prepared on this subject and will be submitted within a few days.

In connection with the currently planned civil-military campaign in Southern Tolima, the Chief of the DAS Field Office in Neiva, Col. Enrique Millán, has prepared a series of intelligence reports which make a large contribution to an understanding of the problems in that area. In form the reports are clear and concise and meet most of the basic requirements of intelligence reporting. In content they contain much data which, while not yet completely evaluated, gives a well-rounded idea of conditions in an area where information is hard to get. Col. Millán has been nominated by the Chief of DAS for the senior course at the International Police Academy in September 1964.

During the past few months the number of posts of the Rural Security Service in the Llanos Orientales has been increased from 20 to 27.

II. OPERATIONS

All possible information on the Public Safety Program in Colombia, and the Police of Colombia was provided to the Management Inspection Staff Team from AID/W, composed of Major General Roy Lindquist, (USA retired), and Mr. Leon Woods, Administrative Counselor, American Embassy, Caracas, on TDY to MIS. The Chief Public Safety Advisor accompanied them on interviews with General Saulo Gil RAMIREZ Sendoya, Director General of the National Police, Col. Alfonso ROJAS Martinez, Director of the Administrative Department of

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Security, and on visits to the National Police Command and the School for Carabineros in the Llanos at Villavicencio. The Rural Public Safety Advisor accompanied them on a visit to the National Police School for Cadets. Major Mario CASTILLO Ruiz, U.S. trained National Police officer, was detailed by General Ramirez as police aide to General Lindquist, and accompanied him on visits to other National Police installations about the country, and acted as interpreter on many occasions. The Public Safety Telecommunications Advisor briefed the General on the communications project and made arrangements for him to visit the Police-Army UHF transmitter station on Mochuela Peak.

The Rural Public Safety Advisor and the Telecommunications Advisor traveled to Cúcuta, Department of Northern Santander, April 6-10, to make surveys in their respective areas of interest. They also stopped en route at Bucaramanga, Southern Santander, for brief conferences with the National Police. In Northern Santander, they found the automotive and communications situations very bad and made recommendations for remedial measures. The Governor of the Department agreed to give financial priority to the police and ordered the Departmental owned police vehicles sold in order to purchase new ones. The most pressing police problems appeared to be cattle rustling, contraband, and stolen autos. Northern Santander borders on Venezuela, and it is believed that many stolen autos are coming in from Venezuela for sale in Colombia, and that the rustled cattle are being moved into Venezuela from Colombia. The National Police report good success in suppression of cattle rustling.

On April 9, the Telecommunications Advisor left Cúcuta for Guajira where he spent two days inspecting the installation of the Ministry of Government Radio net which he found generally good, but faulty, in several minor respects. He made recommendations for corrections.

The Public Safety Division and the Civil Aviation Branch in USAID are working together to avoid duplication of communications facilities wherever possible by using the Ministry of Government net for country-wide weather reporting and using the CAA net to supplement point-to-point police communications wherever possible.

The Telecommunications Advisor visited Santa Marta on April 13-14, and made arrangements to have a SSB transmitter installed there.

The USIS is supporting the Public Safety Division in the printing of an anti-communist indoctrination booklet to be distributed to all National Police personnel. The booklet is very well organized and illustrated with meaningful cartoons. It clearly explains the designs and operations of communists, the dangers involved in communism, local conditions which encourage subversive efforts, how the police can combat these conditions, and how they can directly combat militant subversion.

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A two-week public relations course was initiated by the National Police on April 20 with USAID Public Safety support. Twenty officers of lieutenant, captain, and major rank were enrolled. These officers are to be designated public relations officers for their respective units in various parts of the country, and are to carry the program into their units.

General Ramirez and his immediate staff of 42 officers were given a twenty-hour course of instruction in use of the cal. .38 revolver, firing the practical pistol course. The period of training was for two weeks. Most of the officers qualified, and General Ramirez, along with his civilian general secretary, Dr. Guillermo RIBERO Angel, made high scores. This course stimulated much enthusiasm among the higher echelons of the National Police and has prompted General Ramirez to accept the USAID proposal for a general firearms training program as soon as the production of training ammunition permits. The five reloading machines provided through the AID Public Safety Program have been set up at Station No. 7 in Bogotá, and are producing good quality training ammunition, some of which was used in the aforementioned course.

The Public Safety Division has established a library of police texts and reference books principally for the use of the Public Safety technicians, but the books are being made available to police officers on an individual loan basis. In the meantime, a comparatively large quantity of some of the books now published in the Spanish language are being obtained to be provided the police for their libraries.

Mr. Harold Swenson, Inspector, U.S. Bureau of Prisons, completed his survey of the prison system in Colombia and departed Bogotá the week ending April 18. USAID felt fortunate in obtaining his services and believes that GOC officials share these sentiments.

B. Department of Administrative Security

During April the first progress report on DAS was translated and is ready for submission to President Valencia as soon as it is approved by the Chargé d'Affaires.

The MIS team unfortunately was unable to observe personally the operations of DAS or the Rural Security Service because of the lack of time. However, the Chief Public Safety Advisor was able to make a rather thorough inspection trip in the Llanos, including visits to the Headquarters of the Rural Security Service at El Yopal, the site of the new Rural Intelligence School of the Rural Security Service at Agua Azul, and the Rural Security posts at Arasca, Cravo Norte, and Orocué. It is the Chief Advisor's impression that the

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Rurales are an important factor in the maintenance of stability in the Llanos. They are an effective force, not unlike the Texas Rangers of the early U.S. territorial days, made up of tough, indigenous personnel adept in the skills of living and working in the Llanos. They are well respected and accepted as friends by the people of the Llanos. The Rurales appear to know everyone in the region intimately, and as a result, they know almost everything which goes on there. They like to boast that no communists can remain in any territory covered by the Rurales. They also maintain that no Rural Agent returns from an uncompleted mission. They have a splendid esprit de corps. One prominent member of the Rurales is among the six students attending the next general session of IAPA.

Antonio Varela, an IAPA honor graduate, was designated to work with the Training Advisor, OPS, to establish the Practical Pistol Course throughout DAS. Varela, a former Olympic wrestling champion from Colombia, is also in charge of defense tactics for DAS and will combine the two programs.

Fourteen jeeps arrived at Buenaventura in April for DAS. They will be distributed as follows:

Jeeps International

Willys

- 1 - Pasto-Ipiales
- 1 - Popayan
- 1 - Medellin
- 1 - Ibagué
- 3 - Bogotá

- 1 - Valledupar
- 1 - Riohacha
- 1 - Barranquilla
- 1 - Cartagena
- 1 - Bucaramanga-Barbosa
- 1 - Neiva
- 1 - Caldas-Armenia

Three DAS agents are included in the group of six Colombians attending the Sixth General Course, IAPA, Washington, D.C. beginning May 18. The group leader is Jaime Torregroza, a member of the inspection staff of DAS.

III. EVALUATION

A. National Police

The successes of the National Police in their part eliminating the rural bandits in Colombia would seem to demonstrate the effectiveness of well organized police units with a minimal amount of equipment, operating on a flexible basis among the general population, with the ability to quickly identify and deal decisively with problem elements of society. If the AID

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Public Safety program merits the tribute which it is being accorded by the National Police, then the relatively small annual cost of the program is producing results far out of proportion to its size.

B. Administrative Department of Security (DAS)

As pointed out in the First Progress Report on DAS, rapid improvements in performance by DAS as an intelligence agency will depend upon the recommended legislative changes. However, the results achieved under Col. Millán in Neiva show that proper orientation and training can be effective even where personnel is inadequate in number. Col. Millán has three IAPA graduates working under him.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. National Police

None.

B. Administrative Department of Security (DAS)

In spite of the higher costs of participant training in IAPA/Washington, Public Safety/Bogotá considers the impact training programmed for DAS to be an essential part of the DAS plan and recommends its fulfillment.

On April 11, 1964, Major Fernando Rangel Paredes, of the Colombian Customs Service, a graduate of the Fifth General Course, IAPA, died suddenly of a heart attack. An expression of regret from the Director, IAPA, would be appropriate and should be sent to Captain Felix Lievano, Chief of the Customs Department.

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