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(C/NF) COLOMBIAN SENATOR CLAIMS DEATH THREATS BY URIBE

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release

t PlusD

creation date

1972	1973
1975	1976
1978	1979
1986	1987
1989	1990
1992	1993
1995	1996
1998	1999
2001	2002
2004	2005
2007	2008
2010	

use by
fication
CLASSIFIED

DIS - Exclusive Distribution
Only
ONLY - Eyes Only
MDIS - Limited Distribution
Only
DDIS - No Distribution (other
than to persons indicated)
TADIS - State Distribution
Only
CHEROKEE - Limited to
senior officials
NOFORN - No Foreign
Distribution
LOU - Limited Official Use
SENSITIVE -
OU - Background Use Only
CONDIS - Controlled
Distribution
US - US Government Only

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Media Organizations

1. (C/NF) Opposition Senator Rodrigo Lara told us he received death threats that he believes emanate from influential supporters of President Alvaro Uribe. Lara - son of a crusading Justice Minister slain by Pablo Escobar's Medellin Cartel - claims his own anti-corruption efforts unearthed corruption involving shady Uribe allies in Antioquia Department with ties to the old cartel. Lara suggested that his three visits to interview former paramilitary leaders extradited to the United States revealed unspecified information about Uribe's links to the paramilitaries. He contended that the former paramilitaries would not reveal more information unless their families in Colombia receive asylum in other countries or receive protection from the GOC. To this effect, Lara planned to seek protective measures for the family members from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. A presidential advisor discounted Lara's assertions as the result of a frustrated political opposition. End Summary.

3. (C/NF) Lara alleged that a former advisor of President Uribe, Jose Obdulio Gaviria, is one of the persons responsible for the threats. Lara said he has received threats for several years since his work as an anti-corruption official during President Uribe's first term. Lara said the threats began when he denounced an allegedly crooked bidding process for Colombia's third private television channel (ref A). Lara said that Antioquia businessman William Veliz, former Pablo Escobar pilot Guillermo "Guillo" Angel, and his brother Juan Gonzalo Angel control the two existing private stations, Cadena Radial Colombiana (Caracol) and Radio Cadena Nacional de Colombia (RCN), as well as Colombia's cable news programs. Lara claims the three keep press criticism of President Uribe to a minimum and put a blackout on reporting about Uribe's alleged links to paramilitary activities early in his political career in Medellin. Lara asserted that Gaviria conspires with these media owners at the behest of Uribe.