CNO'S USE AT X IANC (COLOMBIA) 25-29 AUGUST 1980

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 18SEP2017 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: Deny in Full: __________
Declassify in Part: __________
Reason: 5.6(2)(c)
MDR: 17-M-2022

NATIONAL POLICY AND COMMAND ORGANIZATION BRANCH
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A
APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED

WARNING NOTICE—
Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved

Classified by Multiple Sources
"NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS"
This document is subject to special export control and each transmittal to foreign governments or foreign nationals may be made only with prior approval of the CNO (OP-60).
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ........................................... TAB A
2. NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY-COLUMBIA ....................... TAB B
3. COLOMBIA - POLITICO-MILITARY SUMMARY ....................... TAB C
4. POLITICO-ECONOMIC SUMMARY-COLUMBIA ......................... TAB D
5. MILITARY SUMMARY-COLUMBIA ....................................... TAB E
6. NAVY SUMMARY-COLUMBIA ........................................... TAB F
7. RECENT CNO-TO-CNO CORRESPONDENCE-COLUMBIA ............... TAB G
8. U.S.-COLOMBIAN NAVY-TO-NAVY RELATIONS ...................... TAB H
9. U.S. NAVY-COLOMBIAN NAVY INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION ......... TAB I
10. U.S. SECURITY INTERESTS IN COLOMBIA ......................... TAB J
11. FMS FOR THE COLOMBIAN NAVY ..................................... TAB K
12. COLOMBIA'S LAW OF THE SEA (LOS) POSITION ................. TAB L
13. ARC SANTANDER REPAIR PROGRAM FOR COLOMBIA ............... TAB M
14. PERSONNEL EXCHANGE PROGRAM (PEP) WITH THE COLOMBIAN NAVY ........................................... TAB N
15. COLOMBIAN PARTICIPATION IN UNITAS ............................ TAB O
16. COLOMBIAN NAVY ROLES AND MISSIONS STUDY .................... TAB P
17. RECENT HIGH LEVEL VISITS TO COLOMBIA ....................... TAB Q
18. U.S. BIOGRAPHY ...................................................... TAB R
1. (U) The following background information on Colombia is submitted for the Chief of Naval Operations use during the TENTH Inter-American Naval Conference scheduled for 25-29 August 1980 in El Quito, Ecuador.

**BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION** ............................................ TAB A

- Admiral Quidberto BARONA Silva, Commander of the Navy ............................................. TAB 1
- Vice Admiral Benjamin ALZATE Reyes, Chief of Staff ............................................. TAB 2

**NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY-COLOMBIA** ..................... TAB B

- The eligibility of Colombia to receive classified military information is located at the TAB.

**COLOMBIA - POLITICO-MILITARY SUMMARY** ..................... TAB C

- Liberal candidate Julian Cesar TURBAY elected President in June 1978; began a 4-year term in August 1978.

- Colombia-U.S. relations are good; Colombia shares and supports U.S. on virtually all major international political/security issues. However, problems exist:
  - Colombia has a long tradition of corruption, crime, violence and urban guerrilla warfare.
  - Colombia is a major source of illegal drugs to U.S.
- Colombia is a member of OAS, IADB, Rio Pact, Andean Pact, and an observer to NAM.
- USN is participating with Colombian Navy in a Colombian Navy Roles and Mission Study.

**POLITICO-ECONOMIC SUMMARY-COLOMBIA** ..................... TAB D

- Colombia has had an orderly succession of popularly-elected governments since 1958. The Chief internal problem is a small but well organized insurgency/terrorist movement. Colombia has maintained good relations with the U.S., but is currently involved in territorial dispute with Venezuela and Nicaragua.
MILITARY SUMMARY-COLombIA

- Colombian military forces have a moderately effective defensive capability, but remain inferior in equipment to their likeliest external adversary, Venezuela.

NAVY SUMMARY-COLombIA

- The Colombian Navy has a limited capability for coastal patrol and defense. Naval operations are substantially restricted by the small number of ships available; maintenance and repair problems result in less than 50% of combat vessels being fit for sea duty at any one time.

RECENT CNO-TO-CNO CORRESPONDENCE-COLombIA

- A listing of recent CNO-to-CNO correspondence is listed at the TAB.

U.S.-COLOMBIAN NAVY-TO-NAVY RELATIONS

- Colombia regularly participates in UNITAS.
- Colombia participates in PEP and Summer Midshipmen Exchange Program.
- USN is cooperating in the Colombian Navy Roles and Mission Study.
- USN is cooperating in material improvement of the Colombian Navy.

U.S. NAVY-COLOMBIAN NAVY INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION

- The U.S. Navy and Colombian Navy conduct a very limited exchange of intelligence under the auspices of the Inter-American naval Intelligence Conference (INIC).
- The first [redacted] will arrive in October 1980.

RECOMMENDATION

- Encourage the Colombian Navy to work closely with the [redacted] after his October arrival.

U.S. SECURITY INTERESTS IN COLOMBIA

- U.S. has important security interests in Colombia.
- Geographic location gives Colombia potential strategic importance.

DIA (4)(3) 10 USC 424
CON FDIA EX 3:10 USC & 18 USC
FMS FOR THE COLOMBIAN NAVY (U) .................. TAB K

- The Colombian Navy is limited in FMS activity by its small budget and its limited access to FMS credits.
- A list of recent major FMS purchases by the COLNAV are located at the TAB.

COLOMBIA'S LAW OF THE SEA (LOS) POSITION (8) ............ TAB L

- Colombia's position among Latin American nations is moderate and not very active.
- Colombia claims a 12NM territorial sea and passively supports the U.S. position on free transit of straits.

ARC SANTANDER REPAIR PROGRAM FOR COLOMBIA (U) ............ TAB M

- The U.S. is assisting the COLNAV in the repair of the ARC SANTANDER. The ship is undergoing repairs at SIMA Mayport in preparation for UNITAS.

PERSONNEL EXCHANGE PROGRAM (PEP) WITH THE COLOMBIAN NAVY (U) .................. TAB N

- Status of the PEP with the Colombian Navy is located at the TAB.

COLOMBIAN PARTICIPATION IN UNITAS XX AND XXI (C.Mongo) .. TAB O

- A listing of the assets dedicated to UNITAS is located at the TAB.

COLOMBIAN NAVY ROLES AND MISSIONS STUDY (8) ............. TAB P

- The Colombian Navy roles and mission study agreed upon by respective CNOs in 1979 is presently in phase one: Colombian navy development of mission, function and task statements.

RECENT HIGH LEVEL VISITS TO COLOMBIA (8) ............. TAB Q

- ADM TRAIN and VADM JOHNSON have visited Colombia since October 1979.

U.S. BIOGRAPHY (U) .......................... TAB R

- Diego ASCENCIO, U.S. Ambassador to Colombia.
BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

COLOMBIA
Adm Guidberto Barona Silva
March 1979

(U) NAME: Adm Guidberto Barona Silva
(bah-ROH-nah), Navy.

(U) POSITION: Commander of the Navy since 8 Aug 1978.

(SI) SIGNIFICANCE: Highly intelligent and competent, Adm Barona is respected for his professionalism, leadership ability, and loyalty. He is an independent thinker who has the courage of his convictions, yet remains popular with his peers and superiors. Adm Barona served on a Colombian Navy patrol escort with the United Nations Forces in the Korean War. Barona was appointed to his present position in the wake of a major reshuffling of senior military personnel brought about by the inauguration of President Jurry Ayala on 8 Aug 1978, and the selection of his cabinet.

POLITICS:

INTERNATIONAL:

INTERNAL:

PERSONAL DATA:

(U) Birth: [Redacted]

(U) Family: [Redacted]

Description: Adm Barona has a medium build (5'11" or 1.80 m, 176 lbs or 80 kg), erect posture, oval face, fair complexion, brown eyes, black hair, and alert appearance. He dresses conservatively. Frank, amiable, and very likable, he mixes well socially.
(U) **English proficiency good.**

(U) **Roman Catholic.**

(U) **Spanish Cross of Naval Merit (First Class); U.S. Naval Medal: Flora (naval officer with highest standing in Service War School class; United Nations Service Medal; Colombian Medal for Services in Foreign War, Bronze Star. Antonio Varilla Military Order of Merit (Grand Officer). Francisco Jose Caldas Medal (Professor), Service Medal (30 years); Jose Fernandez Madrid Medal, Cross of Espada.**

(U) **Civil Education:** Secretary in Colegio de Santa Inesita, Cali, Colombia.

(U) **Careers:**

1943-1945 - First, Naval Academy, Cartagena, from 15 Jan 1944, Advanced Preparatory Program, 11 Nov 1944.


1951-1952 - Naval Line Officer, Naval Academy, Cartagena, Mar 1951-Jul 1952.


1958-1961 - Executive Officer, Caribbean Fleet (patrol escort).

1961-1963 - Instructor, Refresher Training Courses, Norfolk, Virginia, and Key West, Florida.


1968-1970 - Inactive, Cadet Corps, Naval Academy, Cartagena.


1960-1961 - Executive Officer, Antioque (Destroyer).
1962 - Student, Staff Course, Superior War School, Bogota, Feb-23 Nov.
1963 - Chief, Dept X-3 (Operations), Naval Staff.
Promoted to Cdr, 16 June.
1973-1974 - Recreation Officer, Navy Headquarters Staff.
? - Attended Conference of Commanders of Latin American Navies,
    Key West, Florida.
1964-? - Chief, Navy Section, Superior War School.
1967 - Commander, Bolivar Naval Base, Cartagena.
    Promoted to Capt, June 1967.
1967-1972 - Student, Senior Officers Course, Superior War School, to
    Commander, Task Group 77.4, Chiefs XII exercises, Sep 1977.
1975-1976 - Director, Government of Colombia Maritime and Port
    Promoted to Adm, Nov 1978.
BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

Vice Admiral Benjamin ALZATE Reyes

June 1980

(U) NAME: Vice Admiral Benjamin Alzate Reyes
(ahl-SAH-teh), Navy.

(U) POSITION: Chief of Staff of the Navy and Chief
of Naval Operations, since 7 August 1978. Admiral
Alzate succeeded Vice Admiral Guidberto Barona Silva.

SIGNIFICANCE: Intelligent, considerate,
tactful, and a leader, Admiral Alzate is a determined
task-master who gets results. He is very popular with
junior officers. Alzate’s competence and profession­
alism came into focus when he upgraded and improved
the readiness capability of the Naval Forces, Atlantic
(1973-1974). He studied at the Massachusetts Institute
of Technology, Boston, and reportedly holds a Ph.D. from that institution.
Alzate is interested in sophisticated technical innovations and can discuss
them at length in English as well as in Spanish. Admiral Alzate served
on the Colombian Naval destroyer escort with the United Nations in the
Korean War. He has had more time at sea than any other active duty
Colombian Naval Officer. Before his present appointment, he served as
Deputy Chief, Joint Staff (1978) and as Inspector General, Colombian
Navy (1976-1978). Admiral Alzate was appointed to his present position
in the wake of a major reshuffling of senior military personnel in
August 1978 brought about by the inauguration of President Turbay Ayala
and the selection of his cabinet.

POLITICS: He, along with other Colombian Naval
officers, believes that the Colombian Navy should seek ships and equipment
from the United States,

PERSONAL DATA: Admiral Alzate was born 21 November 1926 in
Chaparral, Tolima Department. He is Caucasian, of short stature, tends to
being overweight (5'5" or 1.65 m, 175 lb or 79 kg), with black hair and a round
face. He has an erect posture, alert appearance, and is well-groomed.
Self-confident, he does not hesitate to make decisions.

He speaks English fluently; is a practicing

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
Authority: BO 13526
Reviewed by DON/AA DRMD
Date: MAR 12, 2018
Roman Catholic; and the recipient of the following decorations: Colombia's Cruz de Boyacá Military Cross, Chilean Military Star and Bernardo O'Higgins Medal; Ecuador's "Abdon Calderon" Medal (First Grade); Korea's Presidential Unit Citation; Peru's Naval Order; Spain's Naval Cross of Merit (First Class); United Nations Service Medal; Military Cross of Antonio Nariño (Grand Cross); Ponce Medal; Order of Nariscal Sucre. Admiral Alzate's first wife, who was born in the United States, is now dead.

(U) CAREER:


1949 - Commissioned Ensign, 1 January.

? - General Line Officer, Caldas (destroyer).

1950-1951 - Service with the Colombian Naval contingent, United Nations Forces, Korea.

1951 - Promoted to Lieutenant (junior grade), 1 February.

? - Commander, Cartagena (river gunboat).

? - General Line Officer, Naval Academy, Cartagena.

? - Executive Officer, Sancho Jimeno (gasoline tanker).

1954 - Antisubmarine Warfare Officer ARC Captain Tono (patrol escort). Promoted to Lieutenant, 6 February.

? - Section Commander, Naval Academy, Cartagena.

1955-1957 - Student, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Massachusetts.

? - Electronics Officer, 20 de Julio, (destroyer).
Vice Admiral Benjamín ALZATE Reyes
June 1980

1959
- Promoted to Lieutenant Commander, 16 July.
- Chief, Operations Department, Naval Academy, Cartagena.

1961
- Director of Studies, Naval Academy, Cartagena.
- Instructor, Colombiano Merchant Marine.
- Assigned to Narino Departmental Government.

1962
- Student, Staff Course, Superior War School, Bogota, February-November.

1962-1964
- Executive Officer, destroyer Antioquia, from November 1962. Subsequently, Commander, Antioquia, until February 1964.

1963
- Promoted to Commander, 1 December.

1964
- Director of Studies, Naval Academy, Cartagena, 1 February-15 July.

1964-1965
- Assistant Superintendent, Naval Academy, Cartagena, 16 July 1964-30 November 1965. Training cruise to Canal Zone, Ecuador, Peru, November 1965. Represented Colombia at meeting of Superintendents of Latin America Naval Academies, Annapolis, Maryland.

1965-1969
- General Aide to the Commander of the Navy, from 1 December 1965.

1967
- Promoted to Captain, 1 December.

1970-1971(?)
- Commanding Officer, Gloria (training ship of the Naval Academy; visited Spain, Portugal, North America, Africa, Near East, Turkey, Greece, Italy, France and the Mediterranean coast, South America, Australia, New Zealand, and Antartic Islands).

1971
- Attended Superior War School (Advanced Course).

1972
- Promoted to Rear Admiral, 1 December.

1973-?
- Commandant, Colombian Naval Academy, from 1 January.

1973-1974
1976-1978


1978

- Deputy Chief, Joint Staff, Military Forces of Colombia, 4 February-early August.

1978-Present

- Navy Chief of Staff and Chief of Naval Operations, from 7 August 1978.
SUBJECT (U)

Colombia - Politico-Military Summary

HIGHLIGHTS (U)

- Liberal candidate Julian Cesar TURBAY elected President in June 1978; began a 4-year term in August 1978.
- Colombia-U.S. relations are good; Colombia supports U.S. on virtually all major international political/security issues.
- Colombia has long tradition of corruption, crime, violence and urban guerrilla warfare.
- Colombia is a major source of illegal drugs to U.S.
- Colombia is member of OAS, IADB, Rio Pact, Andean Pact, and an observer to NAM.
- USN is participating with Colombian Navy in a Colombian Navy Roles and Mission Study.

DISCUSSION (U)

- President Turbay's victory is evidence of Colombia's healthy two party democratic system. Principal theme of administration is improvement of law and order, and increased emphasis on antinarcotics campaign.
- U.S. interests in Colombia:
  -- A stable, cooperative, democratic and humane government.
  -- Suppression of the illegal narcotics traffic.
  -- Access to Colombia's markets and coffee.
  -- Colombian participation in collective hemispheric security arrangements.
  -- From U.S. Navy standpoint, Colombia should have adequate naval force to:
    --- Protect Panama Canal SLOCs.
    --- Contribute to overall defense of Caribbean.
    --- Protect territorial integrity including drug enforcement.
- U.S.-Colombian relations are good.
  -- Colombia is a stable, democratic influence in the Caribbean; is concerned over radical trends in Caribbean Basin but so far has done little to counter them.
    --- Geographic location, size, level of development, democratic tradition, and military professionalism make Colombia a potentially important moderating influence in area.
Weak navy, insular foreign policy, and border/maritime disputes with neighbors impede a more active regional role.

-- Colombia supportive of U.S. in international issues.

-- Remained a contestant for Latin American UN Security Council seat in 1979, through 155 ballots, until Cuba withdrew its candidacy and a compromise was achieved.

-- Colombia objecting to U.S. Senate ratification of Quito Sueño Treaty.

-- Under Treaty, U.S. relinquishes claims to several small islands and cays off Nicaragua's coast.

-- Senate wants early ratification to ease relations with Nicaragua.

-- Colombia objects as treaty will exacerbate its territorial dispute with Nicaragua over San Andrés and Providencia archipelagos. Colombia asking U.S., in effect, "why do for an enemy what you refuse to do for a friend?"

-- Colombia's economy is weak.

-- Serious inflation.

-- Economy base is agriculture.

-- Limited industrial capacity.

-- Colombia possesses a potential source of strategic materials (natural gas, nickel and coal).

-- Colombia is the major producer and exporter of marijuana to the U.S. and is also the major processor of cocaine (the raw material produced in Peru and Bolivia).

-- Principal problem in Colombia's efforts to combat drug trade is lack of money.

-- U.S. provided $3.9 million in 1979 to assist Colombian efforts.

-- U.S. Coast Guard/U.S. Customs Service conducted survey in 1978 to determine means to achieve more effective employment of Colombian Navy in combating drug traffic.

-- In August 1979, Colombian Coast Guard was created under Navy direction to control Colombia's claimed 200 mile offshore economic zone.

-- Confusion now exists as to whether all Coast Guard functions, including narcotics interdiction, are now under Navy control.
In September 1978, Colombia promulgated a law which drastically increased penalties for kidnapping, guerrilla activity, and other subversive violence.

-- Campaign has not had significant effect on reducing crimes of violence.
-- Seizure of DOMREP Embassy by M-19 guerrillas in February 1980 illustrates insurgent's freedom of action in Colombia.

- U.S.-Colombian Navy-to-Navy relations are excellent.

-- USN recognizes serious Colombian material deficiencies and is working with Colombian Navy to overcome them.

--- Colombian Navy Roles and Mission Study, with long-term objective of improving material/operational efficiency of Navy, is in Phase I.
--- USN assisting in fleet maintenance.

-- Colombian Navy is very pro-US, professional, and a stalwart supporter of USN.

--- Annual participant in UNITAS.
--- Participates in PEP and Mid'n Exchange Program.

RECOMMENDATION (U)

- Provided for information.
SUBJECT (U)

Political-Economic Summary: Colombia

HIGHLIGHTS (S/NOPRE) (S/NOPRM)

Colombia has had an orderly succession of popularly-elected governments since 1958. Chief internal problem is a small but well-organized insurgency/terrorist movement. Colombia has maintained good relations with the U.S., but is currently involved in territorial disputes with Venezuela and Nicaragua.

DISCUSSION (S/NOPRM)

Government: President: Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Diego Uribe Vargas

Minister of National Defense: GEN Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva

Domestic Politics:

-Turbay, whose Liberal Party narrowly won the elections of 1978, has made crime, narcotics trafficking, and insurgency the focus of his Presidential term, which is due to expire in 1980. Though not plagued by the student and labor unrest which broke out in 1975/6, the Turbay administration has been confronted by an insurgency which has moderately increased in intensity since 1978. Though none of the insurgent movements pose a threat to the security of the government, the armed forces have not been entirely successful in controlling terrorism and eliminating the guerrillas.

The Economy:

-Though economic activity slowed somewhat in 1979, the real growth in Gross Domestic Product was still an impressive 6-7%. Colombia's strong foreign reserves position is buttressed by the high market price for its coffee and from the large inflows generated by contraband narcotics activity.
The domestic economy has experienced a high growth rate, but also a rising inflation (to about 30% in 1979). A principal effect of inflation has been to make Columbian manufactured exports less competitive on the world market; this has in turn retarded the growth of Columbian industry.

Foreign Relations:

- Both Colombia and Venezuela claim an offshore boundary area in the Gulf of Venezuela that is possibly rich in oil. Both countries are negotiating the dispute, and the indications are that it will be resolved without armed conflict.

- Nicaragua has asserted a claim to the San Andres Islands, currently held by Colombia. Beginning in January of this year, the issue generated a storm of nationalist rhetoric from both sides, resulted in a Colombian military build-up on San Andres, and led to the recall of the Colombian ambassador from Managua. The visit of the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister to Bogota in May, however, constituted a moderation of the Nicaraguan position and presaged bilateral negotiations on the issue.
SUBJECT (U)

Military Summary: Colombia

HIGHLIGHTS (SYNOPSIS)

Colombian military forces have a moderately effective defensive capability, but remain inferior in equipment to their likeliest external adversary, Venezuela. The armed forces are not able to conduct any form of extended operation due to logistics difficulties and the lack of transport in the rugged border terrain. The military has had mixed success in dealing with the domestic insurgency.

DISCUSSION (SYNOPSIS)

Total Armed Forces: 63,500 (7th largest in Latin America)

Military Budget: $245 million (8th largest in Latin America)

Commander of the Armed Forces: GEN Jaime Sarmiento

(Note: Sarmiento was expected to be replaced by GEN Jose Gonzalo Forero Delgado on or about 1 June. This change has not yet been noted.)

Army:

- Commander of the Army: GEN Jorge Robledo Pulido

- Personnel Strength: 53,000

- Organization: The major tactical elements are 11 brigades which also serve as territorial commands, each brigade occupying one of the military regions into which the country is divided. While this dispersion of forces is suited to a counterinsurgency function, it would make difficult the conduct of a coordinated defense in the event of external attack.

- Equipment: Almost all heavy and medium equipment is of U.S. origin (the chief exception being Czech howitzers). Most of the vehicles are in only fair condition, reflecting the effects of a poor maintenance system.
Air Force: Commander of the Air Force: GEN Raúl Paredes Diago

- Personnel Strength: 3,848

- AOB: 14 ground attack (MIRAGE 5, A37B)
  40 fighter trainers (T-33A, T-37C, T-41D)
  3 recon/fighters
  26 transports
  52 trainers
  10 utility
  51 light helicopters

  196 Total

-Equipment: Aircraft are predominantly of U.S. origin; tactical aircraft consist primarily of armed trainers. Due to a lack of sophisticated fighter and reconnaissance aircraft, the Air Force is desirous of acquiring the F-5/RF-5. Funds will only become available in 1985, however.

Navy: Commander of the Navy: ADM Guidberto Barona Silva

(Note: Barona was expected to be replaced by VADM Benjamin Alzate Ryes on or about 1 June. This change has not yet been noted.)

- Personnel Strength: 6,135

- NOB: 3 Destroyers (DD)
  2 Frigates (FF)
  4 Submarines (SS/SSAG)
  1 Amphibious Warfare Ship
  17 Patrol Boats (PB/PBR)
  23 Auxiliaries/Service Craft

  50 Total

-Equipment: Ships have been procured from a wide variety of sources, including the U.S., Sweden, West Germany, and Italy. The condition of most ships is fair to poor, due to poor maintenance programs and virtually nonexistent spare parts inventories.
SUBJECT (U)

Navy Summary: Colombia

HIGHLIGHTS (S/NOPRN)

The Colombian Navy has a limited capability for coastal patrol and defense. Naval operations are substantially restricted by the small number of ships available; maintenance and repair problems result in less than 50% of combat vessels being fit for sea duty at any one time. Since the Army controls budget allocations to the Colombian services, there is little likelihood that funds for upgrading naval capabilities will become available in the near future.

DISCUSSION (S/NOPRN)

Organization: Commander of the Navy: Adm. Guidberto Barona Silva

(Note: Barona was expected to be replaced by VADM Benjamin Alzate Ryes on or about 1 June. This change has not yet been verified.)

The Commander of the Navy, who is directly subordinate to the Commander of the Armed Forces, exercises overall direction of the Navy but normally delegates operational command to his Deputy. The Navy is divided into two elements: the Atlantic Force (HQ Cartagena) and the Southern Force (HQ Puerto Leguizamo). The major concentration of ships is in the Atlantic.
NOB:

3 Destroyers (DD) (1 SUMNER Class)
2 Frigates (FF) (1 COURTNEY Class)
2 Submarines (SS)
2 80 ton Auxiliary Submarines (SSAG)
1 Amphibious Warfare Ship
17 Patrol Boats (PB/PBR)
23 Auxiliaries/Service Craft
50 TOTAL

- Naval Air: The Navy is currently in the process of establishing a small naval air arm. The present inventory consists of two trainers.

- Personnel Strength: 6,200 (including 3,600 Marines).

Current Developments:

- The Navy is presently seeking an undetermined number of corvettes, probably from a West German supplier.
Recent CNO-to-CNO Correspondence - Colombia

HIGHLIGHTS

- January 1979 - CNO sent ADM Barona a message to inaugurate planning for 1979 UNITAS exercise.
- January 1979 - ADM Barona sent CNO a letter proposing joint study group on Colombian Navy.
- January 1979 - CNO sent ADM Barona a letter inviting Colombian participation in 1979 Summer Midshipman Exchange Program.
- February 1979 - CNO sent ADM Barona a message inviting Colombian Navy to 1st Inter-American Naval Analysis Conference in Annapolis.
- April 1979 - CNO sent ADM Barona a letter inviting Colombian Navy to attend V ISS in Newport, RI.
- April 1979 - CNO sent ADM Barona a message stating USN would participate in Joint Study Group with Colombian Navy to develop roles and mission for Colombian Navy.
- June 1979 - CNO sent ADM Barona a letter suggesting establishing a one-officer Personnel Exchange Program.
- July 1979 - CNO sent congratulatory message on Colombian Navy Day.
- July 1979 - ADM Barona thanked CNO for congratulatory Navy Day message.
- February 1980 - ADM Barona sent CNO a letter requesting purchase of MK 37 torpedoes and associate support equipment and spare parts.
- March 1980 - CNO sent ADM Barona a message to inaugurate planning for 1980 UNITAS exercise.
- March 1980 - ADM Barona accepted CNO invitation for 1980 UNITAS.

RECOMMENDATION (U)

- Provided for information.
SUBJECT {U}
U.S.-Colombian Navy-to-Navy Relations

HIGHLIGHTS

- Colombia regularly participates in UNITAS, (see Tab 0).
  -- In 1979 UNITAS, Royal Netherlands Navy participated in
     Colombian Phase with one DD and two Helicopters.
  -- Overall, Colombian Navy not considered capable of inte­
     grating in appreciable size with U.S. forces in combined
     operations due to size and serious material condition.

- Colombia participates in PEP and Summer Midshipman Exchange
  Program.
- USN cooperating in Colombian Navy Roles and Mission Study.
  -- Study agreed upon by CNOs in April 1979.
  -- Initial U.S. study group team headed by COMUSNAVSO/CO
     NAVSTA Panama, visited Colombia in September 1979.
  -- Study is in Phase I of a six-phase study plan; Colombian
     Navy is developing mission, function and task statements.

- USN Cooperating in material improvement of Colombian Navy.
  -- Colombian Destroyer ARC SANTANDER, is currently at Mayport
     undergoing Maintenance Availability.
  -- USN Destroyer Tender will visit Cartagena in fall 1980 to
     provide maintenance support for Colombian fleet.

- ADM Train, VADM Johnson, have visited Colombia since October
  1979.
- USN has provided ocean surveillance information to Colombia in
  March 1980 in response to their sensitivity to possible Cuban
  submarine in Colombian Waters.

RECOMMENDATION {U}

- Provided for information.
U.S. Navy - Colombian Navy Intelligence Cooperation

HIGHLIGHTS (C/NOFORN)

The U.S. Navy and Colombian Navy conduct a very limited exchange of intelligence under the auspices of the Inter-American Naval Intelligence Conference (INIC).

DISCUSSION (C/NOFORN)

Colombia did not send a delegate to the 1973 or 1976 INICs, but subsequently assured the USN that they consider themselves a permanent member of INIC, and will continue to render all cooperation in accordance with the INIC agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

The U.S. Navy and Colombian Navy should continue their limited exchange of intelligence under the auspices of the INIC.
SUBJECT (U)

US Security Interests in Colombia

HIGHLIGHTS

- US has important security interests in Colombia.
- Geographic location gives Colombia potential strategic importance.
  -- Potential of bases/facilities for forces protecting Panama Canal SLOC.
  -- Denial of overflight rights would complicate and prolong flight to coast of South America.
- Possesses a potential source of strategic materials (natural gas, nickel and coal).
- Colombian Naval Forces not considered significant, but could provide assistance to US patrolling canal approaches.

DISCUSSION

- Security arrangements.
  -- Member of Rio Treaty.
- Relations between US and Colombian governments considered amicable.
- Colombians have expressed desire to obtain US Coastal Patrol Craft.

RECOMMENDATION

- Support US JCS objectives.
  -- Maintain US influence with Colombian military.
  -- Encourage continued participation in collective hemispheric security arrangements (Rio Treaty) through continued participation in multilateral operations and exercises.
  -- Encourage Colombia to accept a greater responsibility in guaranteeing the security of the SLOCs in the approaches to the Panama Canal.
SUBJECT
FMS for the Colombian Navy (COLNAV)

HIGHLIGHTS

The Colombian Navy (COLNAV) is limited in FMS activity by its small budget and its limited access to FMS credits. All FMS purchases are the subject of close scrutiny and COLNAV frequently turns down Letters of Offer and Acceptance (DD 1513) because of price. Colombia, as a whole, has approximately $17 million in FMS credits available, which are directed to the three services. However, only a small portion is apportioned to the COLNAV. The poor material condition of COLNAV units dictates their repair or replacement, but political and monetary considerations have hindered upgrading the COLNAV.

DISCUSSION

The following is a list of recent major FMS purchases by the COLNAV:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>COST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fleet Ocean Tug (ATF)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$585,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Ocean Tug (ATA)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>151,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floating Drydock (ARD)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>375,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M16 Rifle</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs of ARC SANTANDER</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,078,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(EX-USS WALDRON (DD 679))</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: All ships were sold "as is, where is" with activation costs paid by COLNAV.

The following items are pending:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>QTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MK 37 MOD 2 Torpedoes</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TACOMA Class PG's</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Colombia indicated that budgetary constraints preclude procurement of MK 37 torpedoes offered during FY 80 and requested delayed payment. CNO (OP-63) responded with a proposal to provide for delayed payments and delayed delivery. COLNAV has requested a Letter of Offer.

COLNAV has indicated continued interest in the PG's. Principal obstacle appears to be the high costs of activation, spare support, and training, all of which would be borne by COLNAV. Enabling legislation is before Congress for the no cost lease of these ships. Upon enactment processing will continue.
COLNAV presently has custody of a floating drydock (ARD-28), which is under lease. The Executive Branch directed termination of leases by the sale of the ships involved. COLNAV indicated it was unwilling to pay the scrap value cost of this ship and offered $150,000 based upon its poor material condition. The ship was turned over to Defense Logistics Agency for disposal.

Despite financial difficulties, COLNAV recently signed a contract for new construction corvettes from Germany.

RECOMMENDATION

Provided for information only.
SUBJECT (U)

- Colombia's Law of the Sea (LOS) Position

HIGHLIGHTS- (U)

- Colombia's position among Latin American nations is moderate and not very active.

DISCUSSION

- Colombia claims a 12 mi territorial sea and passively supports the U.S. position on free transit of straits.
  -- Colombia claims a 200 mi fishery zone, which is recognized by the U.S.
  -- Colombia also claims a 200 mi economic zone, which is not recognized by the U.S.

- During the LOS Conference, Colombia has been a proponent of an exclusive economic zone, designated a patrimonial sea, rather than a 200 mi territorial sea.

- Colombia is stressing close cooperation between the developing and developed countries for sharing of technical assistance on ocean use.

RECOMMENDATION (U)

- For information.
SUBJECT

ARC SANTANDER Repair Program for Colombia

HIGHLIGHTS

In response to a Colombian Navy (COLNAV) request, the U.S. Navy is assisting the COLNAV in the repair of the ARC SANTANDER. The ship underwent repairs at SIMA Mayport during the May-July 1980 timeframe to prepare it for UNITAS.

DISCUSSION

The Colombians had requested from Admiral Hayward and later Admiral Train, a tender visit to Cartagena, similar to VULCAN's visit in 1975. CINCLANTFLT made a counter proposal for the work to be accomplished at SIMA Mayport to prepare SANTANDER for UNITAS XX, followed by a tender visit in fall.

On 13 August 1980, COLNAV proposed two alternatives for effecting further repairs on SANTANDER during 1980 timeframe: (1) designated tender visit Cartagena as originally scheduled; (2) or cancel tender visit and have personnel from SIMA Mayport travel to Cartagena with necessary tools to complete remaining work items.

CINCLANTFLT has been requested to study both COLNAV proposals for a determination as to the most cost effective method of accomplishing the additional repairs on this ship.
SUBJECT

Personnel Exchange Program (PEP) with the Colombian Navy (COLNAV).

HIGHLIGHTS

- In January 1980 the USN accepted a COLNAV proposal to establish a one-officer exchange program. The USN position is a billet on the Commander Atlantic Fleet Staff in Cartagena and the first incumbent is scheduled to arrive in August. A counterpart billet for an instructor at Fleet Combat Training Center, Dam Neck, Virginia, was proposed to the COLNAV in April.

DISCUSSION

- The USN attempted to establish a PEP with Colombia by assigning a submarine and diving medical qualified doctor to the Colombian Navy in mid-1972; however, the Colombians never reciprocated and that exchange was terminated. In 1974, the Colombian Navy proposed an exchange but, after USN agreement, the Colombians withdrew the proposal due to fiscal constraints.

- In 1975 the USN accepted a COLNAV proposal to assign a Commander to an exchange tour with the U. S. Navy in the comptroller/fiscal management field. The COLNAV specified that a USN counterpart exchange officer could not be accommodated in Colombia. The COLNAV officer completed his two-year one-way tour in October 1977.

- The establishment of a PEP was discussed at the IX Inter-American Naval Conference and agreement reached that the specific exchange arrangements would be worked out in Washington between the OPNAV staff and the COLNAV attache.

- In February 1979, the PEP Manager met with the Colombian Naval Attache, Washington to discuss the details of the exchange. Subsequent discussions eventually led to the establishment of the present one-officer exchange program.

- As a result of the COLNAV's inability to identify an officer for assignment to the proposed Supply Corps billet, an alternate position for a surface line LT was developed. This proposed billet was forwarded to the Chief, U. S. Naval Mission for presentation to the COLNAV in April of this year.

RECOMMENDATION

Provided as background information for the CNO for the Tenth Inter-American Naval Conference in Quito, Ecuador, 25-29 August 1980.
SUBJECT (U)

Colombian Participation in UNITAS XX and XXI

DISCUSSION (U)

- UNITAS XX (1979).

-- Phase Two - Colombia/Venezuela (8 - 9 Jul).

--- Colombian Navy (COLNAV) participation: 1 DD, 1 DE, 1 SS.
--- VENAV participation: 2 DD, 2 FF, 1 SS.
--- Highlights: Consisted almost entirely of ASW exercises.

-- Phase Three - Colombia (10 - 22 Jul).

--- COLNAV participation: 1 DD, 1 DE, 1 ATA, 4 M1RAGE.
--- Highlights: A Royal Netherlands DDE and two SP-2H also participated in Phase Three. COLNAV interest and participation in professional symposia improved over UNITAS XIX.
--- Evaluation: COLNAV is small, beset with major material conditions and is not considered capable of integrating in any appreciable strength with U.S. for combined or joint operations. COLNAV officers are a dedicated group of professionals striving to improve their tactical expertise despite old ships in poor condition.

- UNITAS XXI (1980).

-- Phase Four - Colombian (24 - 30 Aug).
-- Post UNITAS amphib ops (26 - 29 Nov).

--- Colombian Navy participation: 2 DD, 1 SS, 1 AUX.

RECOMMENDATION (U)

- Provided for information.
Colombia Navy Roles and Missions Study

HIGHLIGHTS

- Colombian Navy roles and missions study agreed upon by respective CNOs in April 1979.
- The study is a Colombian Navy project with assistance provided by USN.
- Initial US study group team, headed by COMUSNAVS0/CO NAVSTA Panama visited Colombia in May 1979.
- Study is presently in phase one: Colombian Navy development of mission, function and task statements.

DISCUSSION

- Agreement by respective CNOs included:
  - No obligation for U.S. Government to support the conclusions reached.
  - No commitment for U.S. Government to provide funds for security assistance.

- Initial study group visited Colombia in September 1979. Study group included representatives from U.S. Coast Guard, OPNAV Systems Analysis and Politico-Military Divisions.
- Colombian Navy desires long-range study employing OA methodology.
  - Colombian Navy was most cooperative and candid.
  - A six-phase study plan was developed during this visit as follows:
    --- Develop mission, function and task statements.
    --- Resource determination.
    --- Technical review of working papers.
    --- Optimization of resource requirements (draft reports).
    --- Review of draft reports.
    --- Final reports.

- Colombian Navy study coordinator is VADM Alzate, Deputy CNO.
- Colombian Navy has serious problems including material readiness, logistic infrastructure and technical capabilities.
- According to VADM Alzate, only limited progress has been made by Colombian Navy thus far due other pressing staff requirements.
  - Central American situation.
  - Colombian/Nicaraguan territorial dispute - San Andres Islands.
  - COLNAV states no input from USN required at this time, ball is in COLNAV court.

RECOMMENDATION (U)

- Provided for information.
SUBJECT (U)
Recent High-Level Visits to Colombia

HIGHLIGHTS

- ADM Train and VADM Johnson have visited Colombia since October 1979.

DISCUSSION

- ADM Train visited Colombian Navy officials in Bogota and Cartagena in October 1979.
  - Discussed strategic importance of the Caribbean and USN reliance on support of Caribbean navies to defend sea lanes.
  - Colombians expressed interest in:
    - USN maintenance assistance.
    - Procuring LST for transport, disaster relief in Pacific.
    - Problems with long delays on FMS materials.
    - Colombian dissatisfaction with closure of U.S. Naval Mission in Cartagena (Mission in Bogota remains).
    - Desire to expand PEP.
    - Higher degree of access to US/NATO tactical pubs.
  - Colombian Navy has national requirement for more active Coast Guard role—this detracts from resources available for blue water mission.
- VADM Johnson (COMNAVSURFLANT) visited Cartagena in January 1980 in connection with READEX 1-80 port visit program.

RECOMMENDATION (U)

- Provided for information.
November 8, 1977
No. 505

DIEGO C. ASENcio SWORN IN AS
UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA

Diego C. Asencio, of Waldwick, New Jersey was sworn in
November 8 as United States Ambassador to Colombia. He
succeeds Phillip V. Sanchez.

A career Foreign Service Officer, Mr. Asencio has been
Deputy Chief of Mission in Caracas since 1975. From 1972
until 1975 he was Counselor for Political Affairs in
Brasilia.

He joined the Foreign Service in 1957 and served as an
Intelligence Research Analyst at the State Department
until 1959. From 1959 to 1962 he was Consular Officer in
Mexico City, and from 1962 to 1964 he was Political Officer
in Panama.

He returned from overseas in 1964 to serve in the Depart-
ment as an International Relations Officer. From 1965
to 1967 he was Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary
of State for Inter-American Affairs. He went to Lisbon
in 1967 and served there until 1972, first as Political
Officer, then as Deputy Chief of Mission.

Mr. Asencio was born July 15, 1931 in Nijar, Almeria, Spain.
He received a B.S.F.S. from Georgetown University in 1952.
After working for two years as an insurance underwriter,
he served in the United States Army from 1955 to 1957. He
speaks Spanish and Portuguese.

He is married to the former Nancy Rodriguez. They have
five children: Manuel, Diego, Ann, Maria and Francis.