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WARNING: TOPIC: CRIME, DOMESTIC POLITICAL SERIAL: LAL2014051659947003

BODY

COUNTRY: COLOMBIA

(U) COLOMBIA: SEPULVEDA OBTAINED INTELLIGENCE NFORMATION SUBJ: FROM Andromeda REF: 1. Wiretap suspect had contacts with 'Andromeda program' and military intelligence: newspaper LAR2014051655698784 Colombia Reports English 0000 GMT 16 May 14 (U) 2. Colombia: Report Examines Files in Possession of Sepulveda LAL2014051261571563 eltiempo.com Spanish 0000 GMT 12 May 14 (U) 3. Colombia: Hacker Sepulveda Allegedly Targeted Timochenko, Cordoba LAL2014051053377505 elespectador.com Spanish 0000 GMT 08 May 14 (U) SOURCE: Bogota eltiempo.com in Spanish 15 May 14 (U) TEXT: [(U) El Tiempo Justice Section staff report on 15 May; place not specified: "Peace Process 'Hacker' Claims Buying Andromeda Information" [INTERNET] [OSC Translated Text] (U) This product may contain copyrighted material; authorized use is for national security purposes of the United States Government only. Any reproduction, dissemination, or use is subject to the OSC usage policy and the original copyright. While establishing whether the illegal activities of Andres Fernando Sepulveda, the peace process hacker [preceding word in English], have been used for political objectives, the Attorney General's Office is advancing, with firm steps, toward another key aspect of the investigation: Sepulveda's links with Andromeda, the Army's intelligence facade, disclosed three months ago in the northern

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area of Bogota.

A few hours after being arrested, the hacker confessed before a prosecutor that he had been trafficking with intelligence information and revealed that Andromeda was one of his sources of confidential data. Sepulveda's statements allegedly showed that offenses have been perpetrated at the place -- which is handled by military intelligence personnel - and that phones had been hacked. (See, in addition: Follow ups and charges moving the 'hacker' Sepulveda's case)

"A friend, who is a member of the Air Force intelligence (analyst) and expert in informatics security, said that he knew the Andromeda people," Sepulveda said in a 6-page exclusive statement to the El Tiempo. This newspaper abstains from revealing the mentioned names, so as not to hinder the investigation.

The front of Andromeda, at the Galerias neighborhood, in Bogota.

Photo: El Tiempo files.

He added that a little after the scandal caused by the disclosing of the facade, he met with a contact who made himself known as 'Bender' [preceding word in English] and that this person offered him "a great deal" of information on the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and on the peace process," as well as a monitoring tool for BlackBerry" that was capable of listening to calls, film videos, take photographs and serve as reference for geolocation [geographical location]. (See: The files of 'hacker' Sepulveda, who is charged with spying on the peace process).

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Sepulveda asserts that the Andromeda men, led by a sergeant, offered him, for the price of 30 million pesos, an information package containing chats among the FARC chiefs, as well as mails; he added that his plan, which did not come true, was to purchase the package and then resell the information to the National Intelligence Directorate (DNI) "for a higher price, so that he could profit by it."

"The objective was to purchase 100 mail accounts (of the FARC) but only 20 of them were delivered," and that he allegedly paid for them with a computer and 8 million pesos in cash. They had asked 100 million pesos for the 100 mail accounts.

Contact with the DNI

As this newspaper revealed last Sunday, among those intercepted accounts was that of alias 'Boris,' head of the FARC security in Havana.

Sepulveda reported how he obtained the encrypted mail that appeared in one of his computers (see photographs). As a result of the electronic hacking of this mail, he obtained a photograph of the guerrilla fighter and of other members of the delegation to Cuba, with a Colombian congressman who was recently in Havana, and that these photos had been in circulation in the last few days.

Although he was also offered access to the accounts of 'Ivan Marquez' and 'Timochenko,' Sepulveda asserted that the passwords had been mistaken and that he had not been able to access the accounts.

The hacker [preceding word in English] said he never succeeded in

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selling the information, despite the fact that he got in touch with a civilian adviser of the DNI, and that this persons assured him that "they were interested in obtaining information on the Havana accords before they were made public, and that they were also interested in knowing whether any terrorist act to be performed in Colombia was being ordered from Havana."

"My idea was to buy the information from the Andromeda people, complement it, and sell it to the DNI," he said.

The National Intelligence Directorate is the head of the intelligence activity in Colombia. It is headed by Admiral Alvaro Echandia (retired), who was one of the military chiefs at the head of the first major attacks against the FARC. On Wednesday night, DNI spokespersons confirmed that the person mentioned by the hacker [preceding word in English] did work there.

Sepulveda asserts that his civilian contact at the agency was the person who acted as the bridge for the purchase - for 8 million pesos -- of the database of demobilized guerrilla fighters, which was found in his files. He also asserted that his idea was to complement the data stolen from Andromeda. "I am willing to deepen all the information I have on the case, as long as all that is done under the guarantee that my personal integrity and that of my family will be preserved," he pointed out.

Sepulveda's version states that, last year, he met with several high-ranking police chiefs "to offer them the program he was developing" on the analysis and behavior of criminality in the cities; he added that he acted as an advisor in several investigations against gangs such as that of "the Pascuales."

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"They didn't pay me but, in a financial crisis, they helped me from their own pockets, without my signing any document or anything," he said. Police have reported that Sepulveda did contact them but that they discarded his offer of helping them because they didn't consider him trustworthy.

Political Contacts

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In this first statement before the courts, the 'hacker' denied that his spying of the peace process had any relation with political sectors. He said he worked during Alvaro Uribe's campaign, in 2006. when J.J. Rendon and German Chica invited him, and that his contacts at the Democratic Center were Luis Alfonso Hoyos and David Zuluaga, son of the candidate. "With regard to these politicians' links with the peace process, there were none," he concluded. [Description of Source: Bogota eltiempo.com in Spanish --[Description of Source: Bogota eltiempo.com in Spanish -- Website of most influential newspaper published by Casa Editorial El Tiempo with the largest circulation in Colombia; mogul Luis Carlos Sarmiento Angulo, the country's most prominent banker and businessman, owns 100% of El Tiempo stock; URL: http://www.eltiempo.com] (U) This product may contain copyrighted material; authorized use is for national security purposes of the United States Government only. Any reproduction, dissemination, or use is subject to the OSC usage policy and the original copyright.

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