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SECTION 1 OF 4

CITE CIA WASHINGTON DC 558234

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**SUBJECT: H/W SUPPORT CABLE FOR WORLD-BRIEF ODDI 05/237 FOR 13
OCTOBER 2005**

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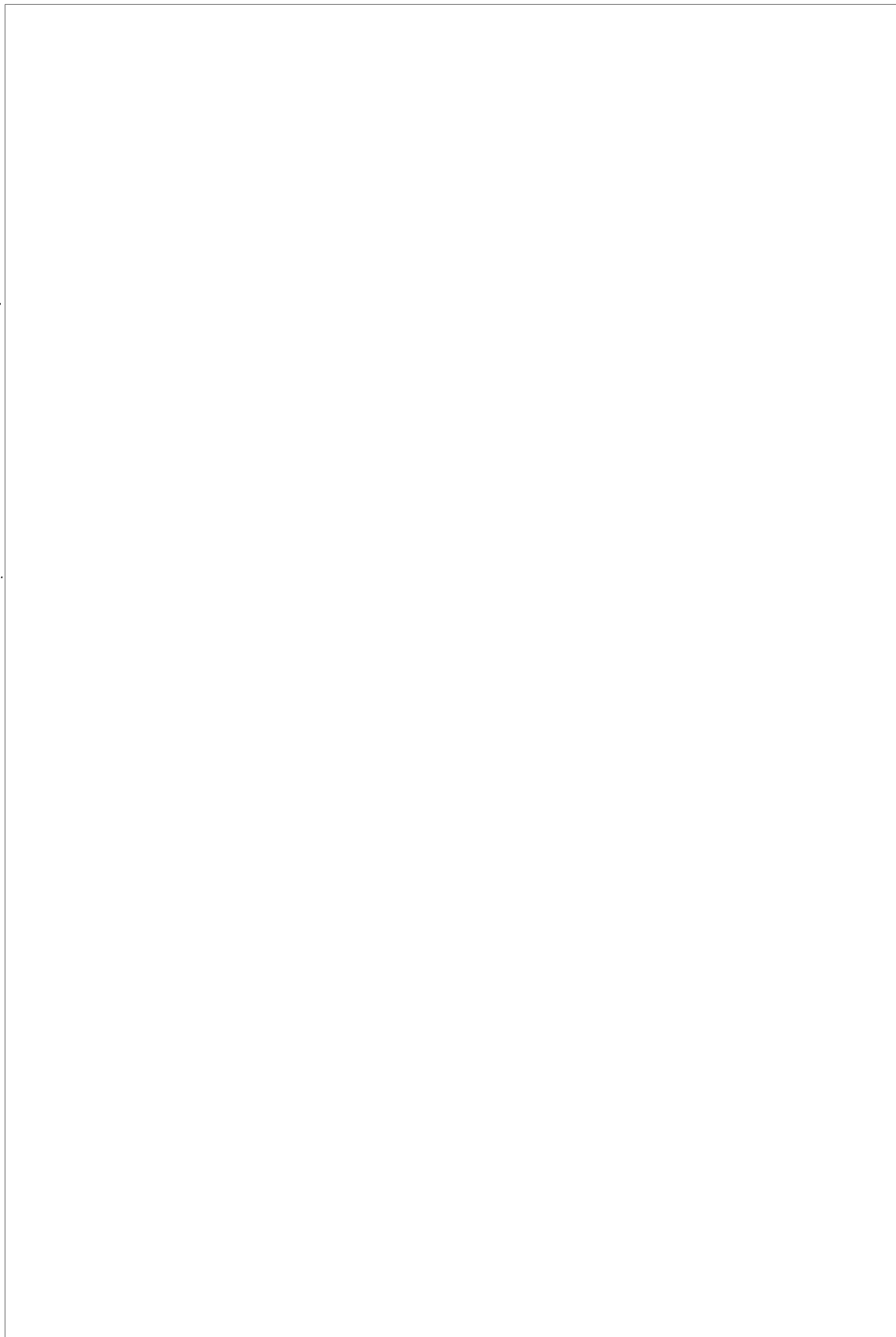
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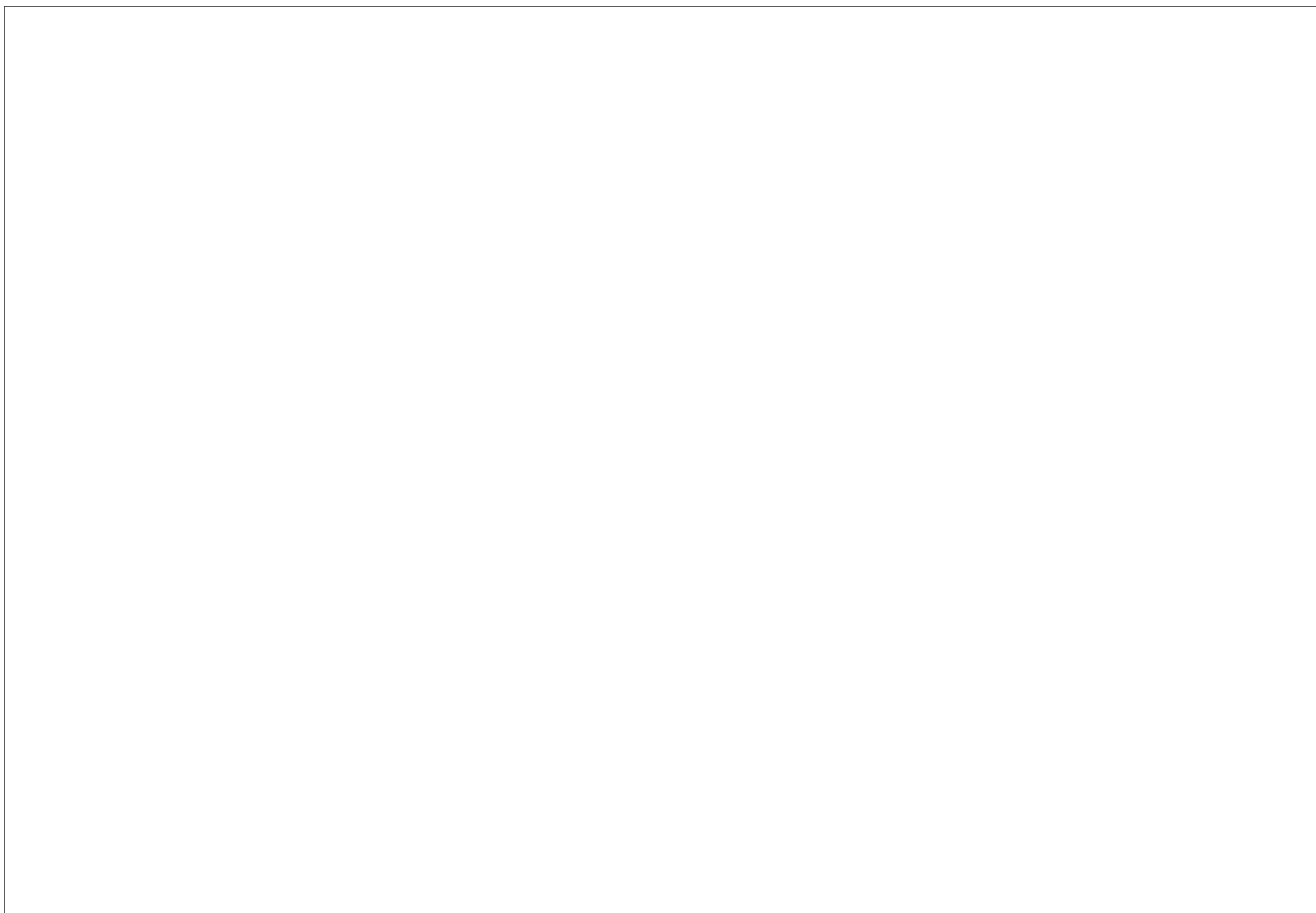








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4. COLOMBIA: URIBE TRYING TO KEEP PARAMILITARY PROCESS ON TRACK

ADMIN

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#4824

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TO WORLD-BRIEF
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SECTION 3 OF 4

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//PRESIDENT ALVARO URIBE'S DECISION TWO WEEKS AGO TO JAIL A SENIOR
PARAMILITARY COMMANDER WANTED IN THE US ON NARCOTRAFFICKING
CHARGES HAS CAUSED PARAMILITARY LEADERS TO SUSPEND PLANS TO
DEMOBILIZE THEIR REMAINING MEMBERS BY YEAREND. [Redacted]
1,000 PARAMILITARY MEMBERS ALREADY HAVE ABANDONED PREPARATIONS TO
DEMOBILIZE.// PARAMILITARY LEADERS TOLD PEACE COMMISSIONER LUIS
CARLOS RESTREPO LAST THURSDAY THAT BEING INCARCERATED IN COLOMBIA
WAS AN "ANTECHAMBER TO EXTRADITION" AND DEMANDED A GUARANTEE THEY
WOULD NOT BE **EXTRADITED**, [Redacted]

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-- URIBE LAST MONTH INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED THE **EXTRADITION** OF
SENIOR PARAMILITARY COMMANDER AND MAJOR **DRUG TRAFFICKER DIEGO
MURILLO**, ALSO CALLED **DON BERNA**, PROVIDED HE COMPLIES WITH THE
PEACE PROCESS AND COOPERATES WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES.
URIBE LATER TRANSFERRED MURILLO TO A MAXIMUM-SECURITY PRISON,
PROBABLY IN RESPONSE TO THE US AMBASSADOR'S CRITICISM OF THE
SUSPENSION.

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[Redacted] SOME PARAMILITARY COMMANDERS
ARE WILLING TO SPEND TIME IN COLOMBIAN JAILS, BUT THEY ALL OPPOSE
EXTRADITION AND WILL NOT DEMOBILIZE FULLY UNTIL THEY RECEIVE
GUARANTEES FROM BOGOTA. [Redacted]

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//URIBE PROBABLY WILL TRY TO STRIKE A DEAL TO SALVAGE THE PEACE
PROCESS AND PRESERVE IMPROVEMENTS IN SECURITY GAINED FROM THE
CEASE-FIRE HE BROKERED WITH PARAMILITARY GROUPS, EVEN IF IT RISKS
STRAINING THE CLOSE US-COLOMBIA **EXTRADITION RELATIONSHIP**.// BOGOTA
IN THE PAST HAS MADE ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARAMILITARIES TO KEEP THEM
ENGAGED AND HAS ALREADY MOVED MURILLO TO ANOTHER MAXIMUM-SECURITY

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[Redacted]

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PRISON WHERE PRISONERS WANTED FOR **EXTRADITION** ARE NOT TYPICALLY JAILED. URIBE CHARACTERIZES US **EXTRADITION** REQUESTS FOR PARAMILITARY COMMANDERS AS THE MOST DIFFICULT OBSTACLE TO THE PEACE PROCESS, ACCORDING TO SENSITIVE REPORTING.

[redacted] RESTREPO CALLS WASHINGTON'S **EXTRADITION** POLICY "NARROW MINDED." [redacted]

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[redacted] HE HOPED TO RESOLVE THE REFUSAL TO DEMOBILIZE WITHIN 10 DAYS. HE ALSO SAID BOGOTA DID NOT PLAN TO FORMALLY CHANGE ITS **EXTRADITION** POLICY, BUT IT WOULD REVIEW PARAMILITARY COMMANDERS' COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PEACE PROCESS BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO **EXTRADITE**. [redacted]

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//BOGOTA WILL CONTINUE SEEKING US ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE ITS FLAGGING PROGRAMS TO REINTEGRATE THE 11,000 PARAMILITARY MEMBERS WHO ALREADY HAVE DEMOBILIZED AND TO SECURE TERRITORY FORMERLY HELD BY PARAMILITARIES.// BEFORE LAST THURSDAY'S SUSPENSION, BOGOTA HAD ASKED WASHINGTON FOR \$48 MILLION FOR DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS NEXT YEAR AND FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PUT 10,000 NEW POLICE IN FORMER PARAMILITARY AREAS.

-- RESTREPO REPEATEDLY HAS TOLD [redacted] THAT BOGOTA LACKS THE RESOURCES TO CONTROL FORMER PARAMILITARY TERRITORY, [redacted]

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[redacted] THE FARC ALREADY IS MOVING INTO SOME OF THESE AREAS.

-- //FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE BENEFITS AND JOB TRAINING COULD LEAD FORMER FIGHTERS TO RETURN TO THE BATTLEFIELD.// [redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted] THE COMMANDERS OF SOME DEMOBILIZED UNITS HAVE CONTINUED THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG-RELATED ACTIVITY. BOGOTA PLANS TO SET UP A JUDICIAL UNIT THIS MONTH TO INVESTIGATE CRIMES COMMITTED BY DEMOBILIZED COMBATANTS, BUT THE UNIT LACKS STAFF, FUNDING, AND INTERAGENCY SUPPORT. [redacted]

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