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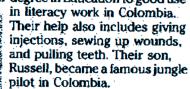
"The situation seemed desperate. It appeared that all the power was in the capricious hands of the guerrillas, and we were impotent before them . . . One morning,

Patty jumped out of bed, and exclaimed, The guerrillas are not in control! she stated emphatically. THE GUERRILLAS HAVE TAKEN OUR SON! But they are not in control! God is in control!"

Chad Stendal, a supervising engineer on many important construction projects in Minnesota, left engineering to work with the isolated Kogi Indian tribe amid the snow-capped peaks of Colombia, South America.

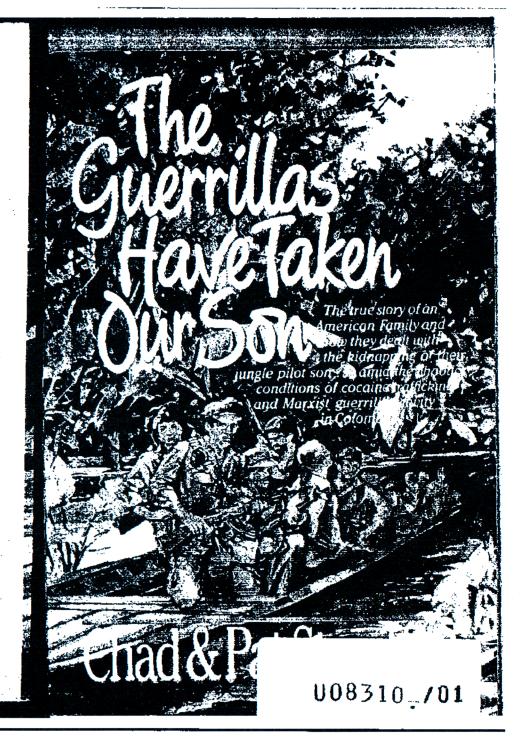
The Kogi Indians are a very short, thin people, due to malnutrition, parasites, and chewing the coca leaves from which cocaine is derived. The Stendals with their four children arrived twenty-five years ago, just in time to gain their confidence and prevent the defenseless tribe from being overrun and decimated by non-Indian colonists and the diseases and vices of civilization.

Chad now has a Masters Degree in linguistics and anthropology. Pat has put her degree in Education to good use









CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL WORKSHEET

FOR 4/30/2001

OSD CONTROL U08310-01

CONTROLLED ITEM:

ORIG 1

RCY(S)

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REPLY TO:

INTERIM REPLY TO:

DESTRUCTION:

Signature:

PAR:

FILE NUMBER:

AUTION: USP

FOR: FAA

SUSPENSE DATE: 5/11/2001

COORD:

COMMENTS: ENCLOSURE NOT REPRODUCED, FORWARDED WITH ACTION COPY.

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USP OWI
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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2500

SPECIAL OPERATIONS/ LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT

> Chadwick M. Stendal 10160 Main Drive Bonita Springs, FL 34135

RCUD ZZMAYOI

Dear Mr. Stendal:

Your recent letter to Secretary Rumsfeld enclosing a copy of your book describing your experiences in Colombia has been referred to me for reply. The Secretary is most interested in the situation in Colombia, and has asked for a review of our policy in Colombia and the Defense Department's role in supporting the efforts of the Government of Colombia to strengthen Colombia's economy, combat narcotics trafficking, reform the justice system and protect human rights, provide for social development and democratization, and achieve peace. As that review is now underway, your book arrives at an opportune moment. As head of the Defense Department's regional policy office for Latin America, I look forward to learning from your experiences and drawing on them as we develop options for the Secretary. We appreciate your offer to provide additional information as needed, and we will keep your offer in mind; with your permission, we will make it known to others in the Colombia policy community as well.

Thank you for sharing your views and your experiences with us. Let me wish the best of luck to you and your courageous family.

Sincerely,

John Merrill

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

Inter-American Affairs

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