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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFO MEMO

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FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: L. E. Jacoby *L. E. Jacoby* Vice Admiral, USN, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: ~~(C)~~ Colombia: Paramilitary Leader's Extradition Unlikely

~~(C/NF)~~ President Uribe has proposed legislation offering conditional suspended sentences to members of illegal armed groups. The issue of immunity from extradition is not addressed, but if signed into law, it is likely US-indicted senior paramilitary leaders receiving suspended sentences will also be exempt from extradition.

- ~~(S/NF)~~ President Uribe told Armed Forces Commander Gen Mora that he intends to go forward with his plan regardless of the US condition not to include those terrorists sought for extradition, according to a sensitive report.

~~(C/NF)~~ The current peace negotiations are crucial to demobilizing the paramilitaries, and Uribe reportedly has concluded that extradition would undermine the process.

- ~~(S/NF)~~ Uribe evidently believes that, if he is successful, he could then dedicate his limited resources to fighting the guerrillas, particularly the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).
- ~~(S/NF)~~ The Colombia Peace Commissioner, concerned talks would collapse if the government emphasized apprehension of six senior commanders, including two indicted by the United States on drug charges, removed their names from a "wanted list" of the most egregious offenders within the paramilitary movement.

~~(S/NF)~~ Paramilitary leaders, including United Self Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) figures Carlos Castaño and Salvatore Mancuso, entered peace negotiations under the general precondition that they would receive immunity from prosecution, and ultimately extradition.

~~(S/NF)~~ According to a sensitive source, demobilization of some groups will occur over the next few weeks.

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cc: DEPSECDEF, USD(P), USD(I), CJCS, VCJCS, ACJCS, DJS, J5, J3, J2

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