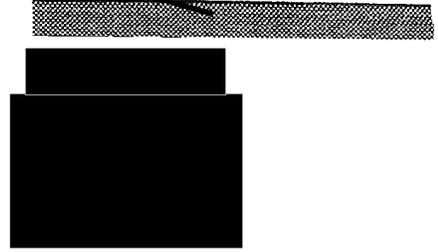




Director of Central Intelligence

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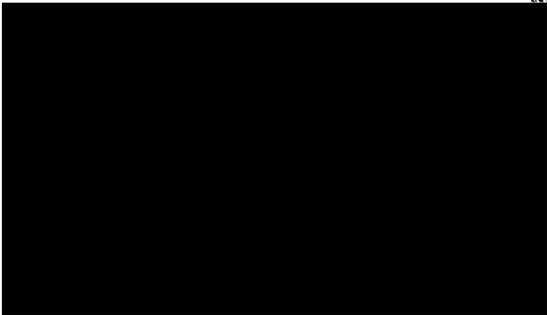
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# National Intelligence Daily

CIA/CPAS - NID 96-184CX

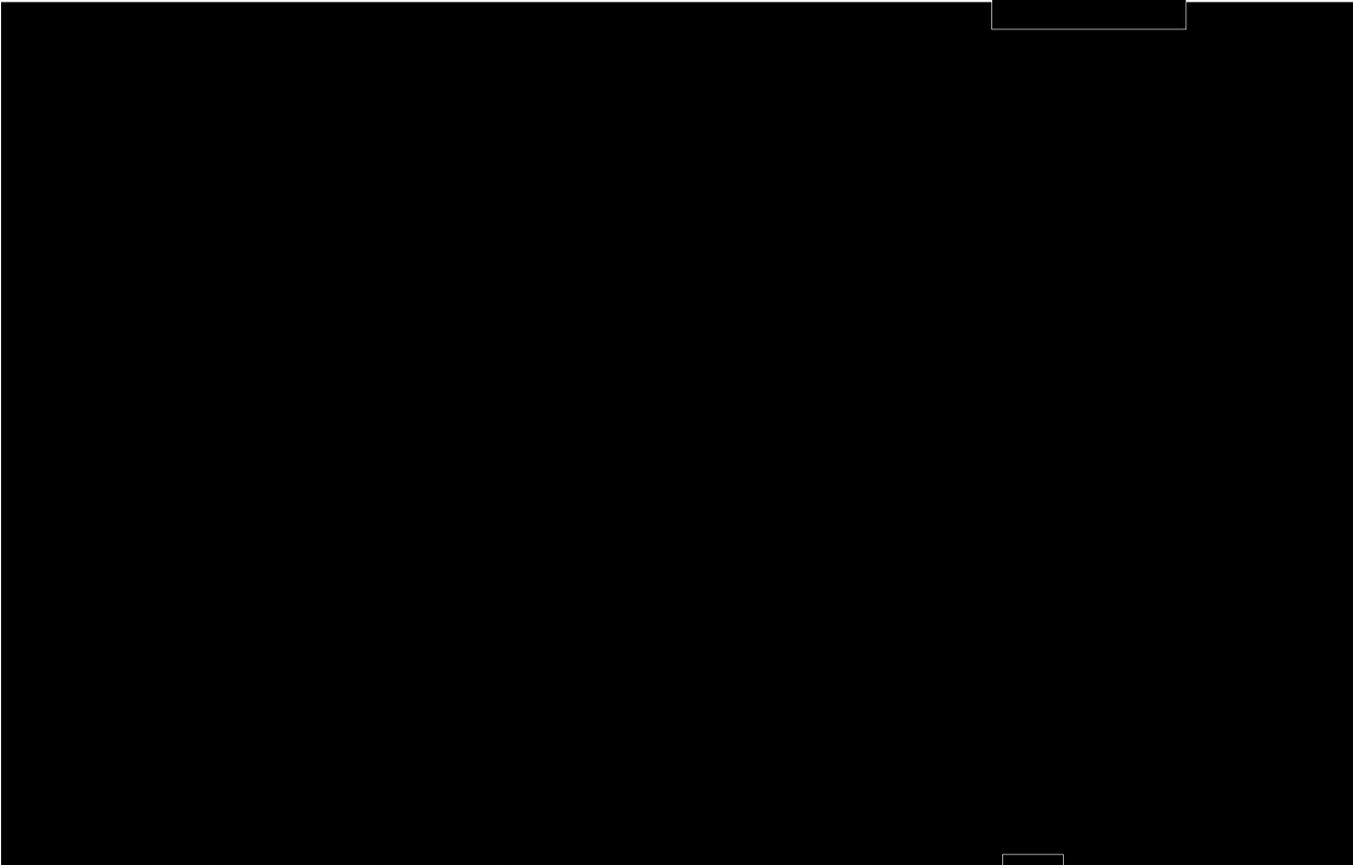
Wednesday, 7 August 1996



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CPAS NID 96-0184CX  
7 August 1996

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*Narcotics*

**Colombia: Peasant Eradication Protests Spreading**

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7 August 1996

### Antieradication Protests, July-August 1996 (U)



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INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS (continued)

Colombia: Peasant Eradication Protests Spreading [REDACTED]

Peasant demonstrations, which began in mid-July in Guaviare Department, continue to interfere with Bogota's drug crop eradication program. Protests have spread to Putumayo and Caqueta Departments, and clashes with security forces have caused three deaths thus far, [REDACTED]

— [REDACTED] 45,000 to 80,000 inhabitants of Putumayo make a living from coca cultivation or processing.

— Guerrillas, who also profit from the illicit crop industry, *probably are fanning the demonstrations*. Over the weekend, rebels blew up a stretch of oil pipeline in Putumayo, and press reports say peasant leaders are threatening to take over oil installations to force government concessions. [REDACTED]

The government on Monday sent a delegation to talk with the peasants, but officials have ruled out legalization of coca and opium poppy, [REDACTED] President Samper has vowed to continue eradication—a criteria for US counternarcotics certification—and has asked farmers to abandon illicit cultivation.

— Samper last week announced the creation of a fund to provide credit to debt-ridden farmers, *but it is unlikely to give protesting coca growers enough incentive to switch to legal crops*. In the past, Bogota has failed to follow through on commitments to provide subsidies to grow alternative crops. *The potential for sporadic violence remains high.* [REDACTED]