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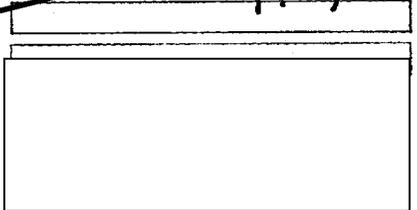
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Senior Executive Intelligence Brief

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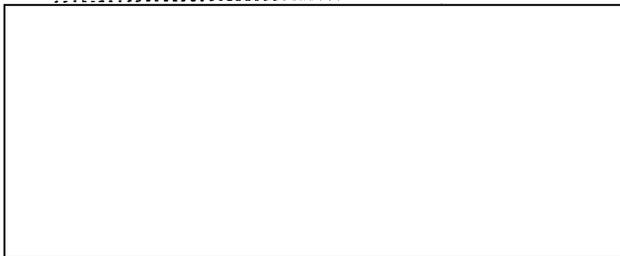
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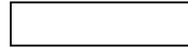


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AMERICAS

Colombia:

Insurgents Defiant as Presidential Visit Nears 

National Liberation Army (ELN) military leader Gabino's public assertion last week that President Clinton's visit on 30 August is a "ratification of war" is consistent with the bellicose rhetoric coming from the ELN and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) alike in response to Plan Colombia. The ELN has set up roadblocks and has downed electricity towers in areas near Cartagena to protest the visit and Plan Colombia.

 the security threat in Cartagena is low but expects the insurgents to try to mar the visit by using the usual pressure tactics—including additional roadblocks, bombings, or kidnappings—elsewhere in the country. 

 a FARC spokesman says his group is planning unspecified actions that will undercut public support in the US for Plan Colombia, and another FARC leader says the group is preparing to move columns of fighters toward major cities.



—The timing of these reports suggests they are part of an insurgent campaign to discourage Colombian and US leaders from moving forward with the counternarcotics aspects of Plan Colombia.

