## Approved For Release 2000/08/08: CIA-RDP96-00789R001500610001-8

### DECKET NOFORN - HANDLE VIA SKEET CHANNELS ONLY

### PROJECT SUN STREAK (U)

WARNING NOTICE: INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

PROJECT NUMBER: 0126

SESSION NUMBER: 1

DATE OF SESSION: 7 JUN 88

DATE OF REPORT: 7 JUN 88

START: 1434

END: 1507

METHODOLOGY: CRV

VIEWER IDENTIFIER: 025

- 1. (S/NF/SK) MISSION: Stage 2 training. Site was the town of Armero, Columbia on the day of a natural disaster (town washed away by mud slide). Monitor intent was for the viewer to experience and describe percepts associated with moving mud.
- 2. (S/NF/SK) VIEWER TASKING: Coordinates 0126/1185.
- 3. (S/NF/SK) COMMENTS: Excellent session from beginning to end. 025 experienced the first strong Aesthetic Impact (AI).

4. (S/NF/SK) EVALUATION: S

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CPT, USA

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CLASSIFIED BY: DIA-DT DECLASSIFY : OADR

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moving magma and usually are the first signs of an impending major eruption. The U.S. Geological Survey said yesterday that Nevado del Ruiz suffered "two catastrophic eruptions" Wednesday night between 11 p.m. and midnight.

The back-to-back eruptions on the northeast flank of the mountain melted enough ice and snow on the mountaintop to trigger what the USGS called "two catastrophic mud flows down the northeast flank," which were channeled directly into the Lagunillas River in the broad valley at the base of the mountain. Eyewitnesses said the mud in four

and tailest of six volcanoes strung out in a line through central Colomhproved:lean-Belease ;200

the Andes Mountains, Nevado del Ruiz has also been the most destructive of the six Colombian volcanoes, erupting in a "thunderous" explosion on March 12, 1595, and erupting again in 1828 and 1829, The volcano was "still smoking" in 1831 after its two 19th-century eruptions.

The Colombian mountain was also the scene of a major earthquake on Feb. 19, 1845, that shook loose enough snow and ice on top of the mountain to trigger one of the ican history. The USGS Dr. Darrel G. Herd described it as a "wall of DOLO 8/08 in Cile R.D. P. 6-010/

down the valley to the Rio Magdalena, killing an estimated 1,000 people" then living in the valley.

Why did Nevado del Ruiz go almost 400 years without a major eruption? Geologists say they don't know, but many suspect it is in the makeup of the magma that lies below the volcanoes that formed the Andes Mountains.

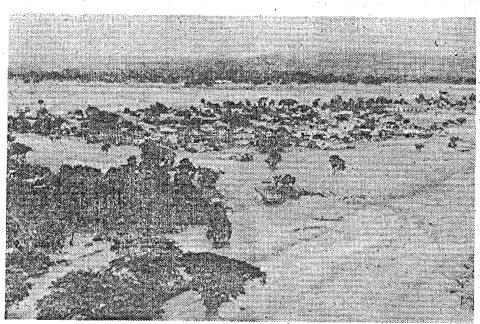
"The magmas in the Andes are very viscous and scickier, let's say, than the magmas that lie beneath the Hawaiian volcanoes," Christiantheir gases, allowing pressure to build rather than venting them in a way that would elieve the pressure that builds up inside volcanoes, he said. "Hawaiian volcanoes are always blowing off pressure, which might be one reason they don't erupt catastrophically."

Another reason lies with volcanoes themselves, among the most unpredictable phenomena of nature. Said Dr. Meyer Rubin of the USGS: "Volcanoes can go 1,000 years without an eruption. There's no way to predict their behavior."

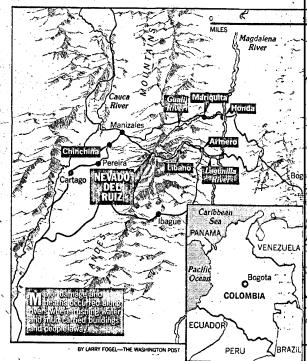
The upward movement of magma can continue off and on for years,

the weight of the rocks above are holding it in. The result ca another eruption. The twin eru, of Nevado del Ruiz Wedner night could thus signal the star an eruptive period that could another 10 years.

There is also the chance Nevado del Ruiz will have an im on the world's weather. Depen on how much sulfur dioxide gapumps into the upper atmosph the erupting volcano could ser cloud of gas and dust around world blocking just enough sun from reaching the surface to the earth by a degree or two.

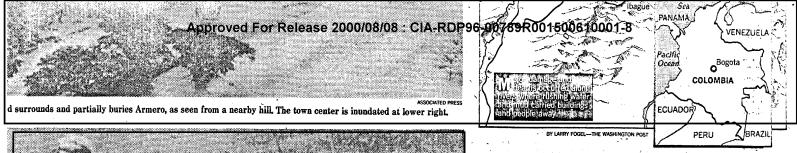


ASSOCIATED PRI Mud surrounds and partially buries Armero, as seen from a nearby hill. The town center is inundated at lower right.



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Come ...... OCPYRGHT





publian rescue workers assist a woman washed away from the town of Armero by the muddy flood waters.

church-a 5- or 6-story buildwas almost completely buried,

neverry made it to safety, he ined, by building a bridge to ground with bits of wood, picks way past pieces of pots, telesets, homes and bodies.

aking calmly but bitterly, the tal administrator criticized nment authorities for hesitatfore declaring an emergency. te reports of volcanic activity b.m. yesterday, he said, nationadio stations were still advising after a natural dam of rocks and stone above the town broke under the force of onrushing waters.

The destructive mud flows had been predicted in a report presented only yesterday by Colombian geologists. The report was ordered several months ago after Nevado del Ruiz started showing early signs of reawakening. It was the scene of an earthquake in 1845 that set off floods and killed about under.

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quin Acosta. The last time lava flowed

But less accurately-as last night's events proved-the report also predicted that the flow of mud would be slow and easily permit the evacuation of surrounding populations. Citing Armero specifically, the study-as summarized in today's editions of the Colombian daily El Tiempo-said the town could be cleared within two hours without

tral air traffic corridor and its explosion last night was witnessed by Some wept. Others, dressed only in the underwear or bedclothes they had on when the disaster struck, shivered in shock in the warm air here.

CPYRGHT CPYRGHT -

# Ruined Town's Survivors Describe Night of Horror

her and her family as they climbed to the second story to pray for their lives.

Sandra Patricia Perez, 13, her face badly scratched and her head wrapped in a white cloth, said she nearly choked beneath the mud but, somehow remained conscious as she tumbled away from Armero in the flood.

Hortensia Oliveros, 19 years old and eight months pregnant, saw the rushing water sweep their 11-month-old child out of her husband's arms. In the panic, she heard

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heard of him. She ended up near a

in Armero instructed him to take cover in the stadium. There; he saw perhaps 3,000 people pressing against the entrance when the torrent of hot mud came over them.

He, too, was immersed; in the flood, he said, which scalded his body. Holding to a tree branch, he drifted six miles to the town of Guayaval, where at 5:30 this morning he was rescued. "I was just about to give up," he said. His wife, eight months pregnant, has not been found.

In this town, about six miles north of Amero, flood waters knocked out a bridge spanning the Guali River and demolished 10 to 20 waterside homes, said residents. Some people decided to evacuate. but hundreds of curious onlookers

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