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Declassify on: April 26, 2042

(S//OC/NF) SUBJ: TERRORISM: POSSIBLE MOTIVE FOR THE EXECUTION OF TWO U.S. KIDNAP VICTIMS BY THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA

Central Intelligence Agency

12 July 1995

Doc Number: []

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(S//OC/NF) ----- CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE -----

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SOURCE A: []
CONTEXT A: []

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(S//OC/NF) 1. []

[] HOSTAGES TIMOTHY VAN DYKE AND STEVE WELSH WER EXECUTED BY THE FARC AROUND 18-19 JUNE BECAUSE THEY HAD WITNESSED CONTACTS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN FARC LEADERS AND POLITICIANS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF META DURING THEIR CAPTIVITY. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, THE LEADERS OF THE FARC'S 51ST AND 53RD FRONTS DECIDED THAT THE AMERICANS "KNEW TOO MUCH" AND MUST BE KILLED. SINCE THEN, THE LEADERS OF THE TWO FRONTS WERE LOOKING FOR A PRETEXT TO MURDER THE TWO U.S. CITIZENS. FINALLY, THEY DECIDED THAT THEY WOULD BLAME THE EXECUTIONS ON THE PRESENCE OF COLOMBIAN TROOPS IN THE AREA WHERE THE KIDNAP VICTIMS WERE BEING HELD.

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(S//OC/NF) 2. [] COMMENT: MANY RESIDENTS OF META DEPARTMENT BELIEVE THE 51ST AN 53RD FARC FRONTS OPERATE IN A POTENTIALLY OIL RICH AREA. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE "CONTACT AND COOPERATION" THAT THE U.S. CITIZENS WITNESSED BETWEEN THE FARC AND DEPARTMENT OF META POLITICIANS WERE BASED ON FUTURE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION IN THE REGION.)

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(S//OC/NF) 3. [] COMMENT: []

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[] AN ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATION FOR THE VICTIMS' MURDER IS THAT FARC MEMBERS, ANTICIPATING OR ALREADY IN A BATTLE WITH ARMY TROOPS, SIMPLY DID NOT WANT THE ARMY TO GET THEIR CAPTIVES ALIVE.)

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