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Colombia: Notes On Recent Clashes Between Rebels & Military

by John Neagle

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In a Feb. 1 guerrilla ambush of a military transport vehicle, eight soldiers died, and four were injured. The dynamite explosion occurred on a road near Saravena municipality, located on the border with Venezuela in an oil-producing region. Official sources, who said the rebels pertained to the National Liberation Army (ELN), stated that the guerrillas also attacked survivors of the explosion. According to government officials, in the previous week the ELN set off two dynamite explosions affecting the country's oil pipeline. The ensuing damage caused a four-day shutdown of pumping 220,000 barrels of crude per day. In another border region locale, close to San Diego municipality (500 km. north of Bogota), ELN guerrillas reportedly clashed with soldiers, resulting in the deaths of 10 rebels and one soldier. Next, on the evening of Feb. 2, a presumed guerrilla group attacked with rifle fire a military post situated only 20 km. from Bogota. Soldiers at the post guard several radio and television transmitters pertaining to the private sector and the National Telecommunications Enterprise (ENT). In this incident, there were no casualties; the rebels fled when Army troops responded to the attack. (Basic data from AP, 02/02/89)

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