

4-13-1989

Colombian Security Agents Seek Identity Of Foreign Mercenaries Contracted To Train Paramilitary Groups

John Neagle

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur>

Recommended Citation

Neagle, John. "Colombian Security Agents Seek Identity Of Foreign Mercenaries Contracted To Train Paramilitary Groups." (1989). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/2991>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiSur by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Colombian Security Agents Seek Identity Of Foreign Mercenaries Contracted To Train Paramilitary Groups

by John Neagle

Category/Department: General

Published: Thursday, April 13, 1989

On April 10, secret police chief Gen. Miguel Alfredo Maza Marquez was quoted by the local media as saying that authorities are attempting to locate several Israeli and British mercenaries who have reportedly acted as instructors for Colombian paramilitary groups. He said police had requested information from several foreign embassies on the mercenaries' whereabouts. According to government sources, five Israelis spent 45 days in Colombia in early 1988. During that time, the mercenaries reportedly trained 50 members of paramilitary groups financed by drug traffickers and cattle ranchers. The training activities took place at a clandestine school known as "El Cincuenta," in Puerto Bocaya, 150 km. northeast of Bogota. Weeks later, 11 British mercenaries, who called themselves "La Legion Britanica," served as instructors at the same school. Colombian police said they also discovered a paramilitary training camp known Puerto Juarez, located 250 km. southeast of Bogota. Police were directed to the camp as a result of statements by one of 13 soldiers arrested on April 4. The soldiers were charged with the assassinations of labor leader Luis Eduardo Vaya, and Teofilo Forero, a leader of the leftist Union Patriotica. (Basic data from Notimex, 04/10/89)

-- End --