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Colombia: Army Reports Capture Of 14 E.p.l. Rebel Leaders

by John Neagle

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On June 2 in Bucaramanga, 5th Army Brigade commander Gen. Alfonso Vaca said government troops arrested 14 leaders of the People's Liberation Army (EPL), and seized large quantities of EPL arms and documents at a farm near Lebrija, Santander department. Included among the documents were maps, photographs, a record of the 5th Brigade's activities, a registry of police posts in the region and a list of ranchers and businessmen from various provinces. Vaca said the EPL's Libardo Mora Toro (LMT) front was planning a series of attacks against military and electrical installations in northwestern Colombia. Among the rebels taken prisoner were Guillermo Salazar, member of the ELN's national directorate; Emiro Saavedra, an ELN military official; Jairo Barbosa, the rebel group's financial specialist; Neftali Franco, an ELN intelligence chief; Santiago Ortiz and Jose Osorio, commanders of the special LMT unit; and Rodolfo Hernandez, a member of the oilworkers' union. (Basic data from AFP, 06/02/89)

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