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[See Chronicle 08/22/89 for summary of earlier developments.] Aug. 22: At a press conference in Bogota, police Col. Oscar Carmona said that legal proceedings to extradite Eduardo Martinez Romero to the US had commenced. Martinez is believed to be a finance chief for the Medellin cocaine mafia. He was captured during a weekend raid on a rural estate at Tolu on the Caribbean coast. The Ecuadoran government announced it was stepping up security along its border with Colombia to prevent drug traffickers from escaping. According to Notimex, the offensive launched Aug. 19 had thus far produced 467 raids, 10,972 arrests, and the confiscation of 58 ranches, 22 residences, 142 light aircraft, 15 helicopters, and hundreds of cars and trucks. Included in the confiscations were three luxury residences, large tracts of land, a nightclub and other goods reportedly owned by Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha. Security agents have also confiscated the "most visible" of Pablo Emilio Escobar's property, including the Monaco building, a monument to his power; two large estates, and a nightclub in Medellin. On Tuesday night, police said they had arrested five suspects in the murder of Luis Carlos Galan. The five Colombians were arrested in a Bogota apartment, where security forces also seized weapons and ammunition. A list of the US Justice Department's 12 "most wanted" Colombian drug traffickers was released. The list includes Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez, 40; Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, 42; and, Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria, 39; alleged leaders of the Medellin drug mafia. Other listed alleged members of the Medellin group include two of Ochoa Vasquez's brothers, Fabio, 32, and Juan David, 41; Gustavo de Jesus Gaviria Rivero, 42, and Gerardo Moncada, 42. Reputed leaders of the Cali drug ring on the list include: Gilberto Jose Rodriguez Orjuela, 50; Miguel Angel Rodriguez Orjuela, 45; Jose Santacruz Londono, 45; and Jamie Raul Orjuela Caballero, 46. Also listed is Jose Ivan Duarte Aceros, 37, a former police officer linked to the Medellin group who was allegedly responsible for the murder of two US agents. Aug. 23: Justice Ministry sources told reporters that four suspected drug traffickers arrested in the government's crackdown on the cocaine mafia will be extradited to the US before the end of the month. The four included Eduardo Martinez Romero, and Rafael Orlandes Gamboa. Orlandes was arrested in Barranquilla, 1,000 km. north of Bogota. The identity of the two other suspects to be extradited was not revealed. Julio Cesar Penalosa, a councillor from the town of Soacha who was wounded during the attack on Galan, died in a Bogota hospital. A Foreign Ministry source who requested anonymity told Xinhua that Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela had launched a coordinated military operation to prevent the escape of drug traffickers. The operation, said the source, is concentrating on unpopulated or isolated areas such as the Amazon region. An unidentified Foreign Ministry source cited by Xinhua said that President Virgilio Barco's nine-day trip to Yugoslavia and Poland, scheduled to begin Sept. 1, had been postponed. Barco had planned to attend the Non-Aligned summit, scheduled for Sept. 4-7 in Belgrade. Aug. 24: In Medellin, suspected drug traffickers bombed the offices of Galan's New Liberalism faction, and the office of the opposition Conservative Social Party. Police said the explosions caused extensive material damage at the two sites. One man, apparently a passer-by, was killed. Suspected drug traffickers set fire to the country homes in Antioquia department of former Finance Minister
Edgard Gutierrez of the Liberal Party, and Conservative Sen. Ignacio Velez Escobar. Police said they found and defused powerful bombs hidden in suitcases left at the Medellin offices of two national radio networks, Caracol and Radio Cadena Nacional (RCN). At the Caracol station, the assailants left behind a dated statement signed by "The Extraditables." The statement said, "We declare all-out war on the government, the political and industrial oligarchy, on the journalists who have attacked and abused us, on the judges who have sold themselves to the government, on the extraditing prosecutors, on the labor leaders and all those who have attacked and persecuted us...We will burn and destroy the industries, the properties and the mansions of the oligarchy." The warning added that the drug traffickers would "not respect the families of those who do not respect our families." President Barco responded to the drug traffickers' war declaration with a series of new decrees. Barco ordered that owners of confiscated assets ranging from real estate to livestock file personally for restitution. Attorneys and middlemen who normally represent the drug traffickers are prohibited from filing. Owners of confiscated assets have 10 days to file for restitution. If claims are not filed, the government will redistribute the confiscated property. Ranches and livestock are to go to the National Agrarian Fund for distribution to landless peasants. Urban real estate will go to the Family Welfare Institute to aid needy children and mothers. Cash, automobiles and trucks will go to a judicial fund to improve judges' working conditions. Aircraft and sea vessels will be allocated to the air force, and weapons to the Defense Ministry and secret police. Another decree orders an inventory of all private airstrips in Colombia to be completed within the next 15 days. Security agents will destroy airstrips unless legitimate use can be proven. Next, fuel distributors will be obligated to submit monthly reports identifying customers. Barco announced a decree aimed at guaranteeing anonymity for Supreme Court justices reviewing other emergency measures ordered since the Aug. 18 murder of Luis Carlos Galan. Finally, businesspersons acting as fronts for drug traffickers will be sentenced to jail terms ranging from five to 10 years if they cannot prove a legitimate source of income. Notimex reported that some 14,000 persons had been arrested since the crackdown began on Aug. 19. US State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said that under a $5 million "Judicial Protection Program" for Colombia authorized last year by Congress but never initiated, $2 million were currently being allocated to Bogota for training judicial security forces. He said that an additional $500,000 would be used for the purchase of unspecified security equipment, possibly including armored cars and bullet-proof clothing for judges and their families. Boucher added that discussions between US and Colombian officials were continuing on how to use the remaining $2.5 million. In a communiqué released to the Colombian press, the Israeli embassy in Bogota acknowledged that evidently former colonels Yair Klein, Abraham Izadaka and Yaakov Brine all anti-terrorist experts are working for Colombian drug traffickers. The statement said the three men have violated Israeli law, and have hired out their services on their own account. Four of five Colombians detained in connection with Galan's murder were identified by eyewitnesses. Two others, who were noticed by witnesses to the murder speaking in a foreign language close to a public telephone booth when the shooting began, have not yet been located. [In an Aug. 22 report by AP, Bogota newspaper El Siglo was cited as saying that police are investigating what appears to be an Arab link to Galan's murder. El Siglo quoted an unidentified witness as saying that just before the killing the man who shot Galan was heard speaking to an accomplice in a foreign language, and the killer left behind at the scene a copy of the Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram. El Siglo carried a photograph of the newspaper, dated June 3, 1989. On April 10, local newspapers cited national police documents as saying that Israeli and British mercenaries were providing training to death squads at camps in a rural northeastern Colombia. Shortly after those reports a national television chain broadcast a video tape it said was received from the death squads. It showed men in military-
style uniforms training with sophisticated automatic weapons. The video included an interview with a purported trainer, who spoke Spanish with a foreign accent and kept his back turned to the camera. In the US, NBC Nightly News on Aug. 21 showed videotape it said was obtained from Colombian television of "drug assassins in training at a secret base camp somewhere in Colombia." Reporter Brian Ross said Colombian and US authorities identified some of the trainers shown in the video as "Israelis and South Africans, former military men now training Colombian drug armies in assassination and terror techniques." On Aug. 13, the Sunday Times of London reported that British mercenaries are being used by the Cali-based drug ring in its feud with the Medellin mafia. The Times said British mercenaries were hired to kill Medellin drug trade leader Pablo Escobar by bombing a ranch he owns from two helicopters. The newspaper said one helicopter was too weighted down with arms and crashed on June 4, and the other turned back. Police announced that on Aug. 23 they arrested Bernardo Londono Quintero in a raid on a daughter's apartment in an upper-class neighborhood in the Caribbean city of Barranquilla. Quintero, 60, nicknamed "the diplomat," has long been considered a pioneer of Colombia's drug trade, which began expanding in the late 1960s. Also arrested in Barranquilla were Luis Fernando Ibarra Bustamante and Ana Helena Beatriz Rodriguez Tamayo. Communications Minister Carlos Lemus said these three and Martinez Romero and Orlandes Gamboa would be extradited to the US following necessary legal proceedings. Aug 25: According to a report by the Defense Ministry, security agents raided and expropriated a $13 million 19th century castle allegedly belonging to the Medellin drug mafia, and arrested 13 people without incident, military sources said. Gen. Ramon Nieves conducted the raid on the building in Chia, 40 km. north of Medellin. Judge Omar Eduardo Garces Bueno of Cali told reporters that letters from "The Extraditables" sent to several judicial offices in Valle department had threatened to kill 10 judges for each suspected trafficker who is extradited. In Cali, judges staged a two-hour strike. Meanwhile, about 550 judges in Bogota and surrounding Cundinamarca department announced plans to resign in protest of what they described as inadequate security measures. Following the Aug. 17 assassination of Bogota magistrate Carlos Valencia Garcia, judges throughout Colombia have protested to obtain better security. They staged a strike that ended Aug. 23, although 48 Bogota judges then refused to withdraw their letters of resignation. The Supreme Court rejected the 48 resignations on Aug. 24. Since 1981, more than 200 judges and court employees have been murdered by the drug traffickers. At Kennebunkport, Maine, White House spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater said Washington will provide Colombia with $65 million in immediate aid, consisting of helicopters, aircraft, military vehicles, boats, light weapons and ammunition. Funds are to derive from unexpended budget items in the 1989 US foreign aid budget, he said. A US Air Force C-5 transport plane brought in two Bell 212 helicopters that were handed over to Colombian authorities. The White House said the first $20 million shipment would arrive next week. The $65 million in immediate aid, said Fitzwater, was in addition to at least $2.5 million of US security assistance to protect Colombian judges. Fitzwater said a "small amount" of US advisors will go to Colombia "for training, not for combat," to instruct Colombian soldiers on the use and maintenance of the equipment they would be receiving. Thousands of students wearing black armbands paraded through downtown Bogota to Galan's tomb at the Metropolitan Cemetery. Police reported that arsonists hired by drug traffickers set a country club outside Medellin on fire. According to a report by AP, the government has thus far raided more than 700 sites nationwide. Aug. 26: Army officers told reporters of daily newspaper El Tiempo they had arrested Freddy Rodriguez Gacha, 17, son of reputed Medellin mafia leader, Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, during a raid at a fortified rural bunker at Rodriguez's estate Chiguagua, in Pacho, some 65 km. north of Bogota. The estate was seized Aug. 24 by soldiers who exchanged shots with the son, two nephews and seven bodyguards,

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the officers said. They added that the raid netted a wealth of documents detailing Rodriguez Gacha's financial transactions. Police have accused Rodriguez Gacha of ordering several murders, including the October 1987 assassination of Jaime Pardo Leal, leader of the leftist Patriotic Union. Police in Medellin reportedly captured Luis Fernando Galeano Berrio, believed to be Rodriguez Gacha's financial manager. Aug. 27: A police spokesperson in Medellin who requested anonymity, told AP in a telephone interview that between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m., bombs exploded at seven branches of the national Banco Cafetero, owned jointly by the state and coffee exporters. He said bombs found at four other branches of the bank, containing a total of about 40 kg., were deactivated. The spokesperson said two men were arrested in a car about two blocks from one of the explosions and were being questioned by detectives. Radio reports from Medellin said the attacks on the bank branches caused extensive damage but no injuries. Local reports said one man was killed in the bombings. Security forces said that since Aug. 19, they had arrested 11,000 suspects, conducted 1,000 raids, seized 300 properties, 125 aircraft, over 1,300 vehicles, and large quantities of drugs. Bogota newspapers carried unconfirmed reports that Justice Minister Monica de Grieff would resign. She left Colombia for Washington on Aug. 25. Daily newspaper El Espectador said she may stay in the US for an extended period. Communications Minister and Acting Justice Minister Carlos Lemos said De Grieff received several death threats last week. She has held the post for about two months. According to unidentified Peruvian police cited by AFP, drug ring leaders disappeared into the jungles of Peru over the weekend to plan strategy. Minister Lemus told AFP that reports of De Grieff's resignation in response to death threats were not true. "I do not know what the reports of her resignation are based on. (President Barco) has said nothing about her resigning." In Washington, US Attorney General Richard Thornburgh said on CBS Television that De Greiff would be granted political asylum if she applied for it. Aug. 28: In an international appeal, President Barco said Colombia's survival is at stake in the drug war. He said the war does not stop at Colombia's borders, and that cocaine users everywhere "have created the largest, most vicious criminal enterprise the world has ever known." In a communique, the Defense Ministry reported that last week the army arrested Abraham Majuat, a financial expert for the Medellin drug mafia, at a ranch near Medellin. In that raid, the army seized 4.5 metric tons of cocaine. The ministry also reported that soldiers seized 8.2 MT of marijuana in two raids in the Caribbean coastal city of Barranquilla. In Washington, Justice Minister De Greiff met with US officials, and Barco's office denied reports she had resigned in fear of being killed. Medellin Mayor Juan Gomez Martinez said about 100 national policemen are being sent to Medellin to join 4,000 national police already stationed in the city. (Basic data from several reports by AFP, AP, 08/22-28/89; DPA, 08/25/89; Prensa Latina, 08/24/89; Notimex, 08/22/89, 08/24/89; Xinhua, 08/23/89, 08/28/89)