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Oct. 15: According to reports in El Tiempo and El Espectador, police arrested Victor Eduardo Mera Mosquera at his apartment in Cali on Oct. 13. El Tiempo reported that Mera was arrested in New York in February 1984 and charged with participating in a drug ring operating in New York, Florida, Texas, California and Arizona. El Espectador said Mera Mosquera was freed from a Manhattan jail because of a "bureaucratic error" but was later convicted in absentia. El Espectador reported that police captured Tulia Consuelo Rincon Barrera, 35, in a raid Oct. 14 on a Bogota apartment. Rincon is allegedly an accountant for Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, one of the three main leaders of the Medellin drug mafia. The paper said she maintains she has never met Rodriguez Gacha, and only filled out income tax forms for one of his reputed subordinates. Jose Rafael Abello Silva, who is wanted by a federal court in Oklahoma on charges of conspiracy and distribution of cocaine, was arrested last week. Julian Palma Molina was also arrested last week and is wanted by a federal court in Miami on drug trafficking and money-laundering charges. Oct. 16: A car bomb exploded in Bucaramanga (about 440 km. northeast of Bogota), and killed four employees of the Vanguardia Liberal newspaper. In an interview with the Radio Caracol network, Vanguardia publisher Alejandro Galvis Ramirez blamed drug traffickers for the bombing that also wrecked his building. In an interview with Radio Caracol, Col. Jorge Ernest Ferrero, a police commander in Bucaramanga, said that in addition to the dead, seven people were injured, 15 houses were damaged, and three homes facing the newspaper building were destroyed. Material damage was estimated initially at about of $1.2 million. Last week four journalists were assassinated by unidentified gunmen in the cities of Medellin and Monterria. Drug traffickers claimed responsibility for killing two of the journalists who worked for El Espectador. AFP reported that three Colombians were extradited to the US over the weekend, including Ana Rodriguez de Tamayo. She is charged in a 1983 indictment with conspiracy to import cocaine and conspiracy to possess cocaine with intent to distribute. Oct. 17: An unidentified gunmen shot and killed federal Judge Hector Jimenez Rodriguez in the city of Medellin. Colombian radio stations were contacted by anonymous callers who said the murder had been perpetrated by "The Extraditables," as an "act of revenge" for the extradition of Colombians to the US. In August, the Medellin drug mafia announced it would kill 10 judges for every Colombian extradited to the US to face drug charges. Four have been extradited thus far since the Colombian government’s crackdown two months ago. Jimenez was the first judge killed since the "drug war" started. The 14,000-member National Association of Court Workers declared a 72-hour strike, beginning at noon. The union representing judges and other court system employees renewed demands for added protection. Oct. 18: Federal Judge Helmut Romero, president of the court system employees' union, said in a broadcast interview that in an Oct. 17 meeting with Justice Minister Roberto Salazar he was told the government lacks financial resources to fund a special program created two months ago to protect judges. Two weeks ago the US Justice Department said it had delivered bulletproof vests as part of a $19 million program to protect Colombian judges. AP was told by a union administrator, Yolanda Parra, that the Justice Ministry had received only 15 vests, and those had not been turned over to judges yet. At the Bolivar Plaza in downtown Bogota, a terrorist died when a fragmentation grenade he was carrying apparently exploded by accident. Witnesses told the Radio Caracol and RCN networks that he was walking rapidly toward the
Congress building when the explosion occurred. According to AP, the incident was connected with the introduction to Congress of an amnesty bill for M-19 guerrillas on the same day. (Basic data from AP, 10/15-18/89; AFP, 10/16/89; DPA, 10/17/89; Notimex, 10/16/89, 10/18/89)

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