SUMMARY: In late September 1997, coca farmers in Caquetá department said local peasants fear the arrival of paramilitaries, whose presence could lead to widespread violence. The guerrillas intend to eliminate paramilitary forces that enter Caquetá. The FARC now wants mayoral candidates to remain in local races because...
IT DOES NOT WANT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO START APPOINTING MAYORS WHOSE THE GUERRILLAS COULD NOT CONTROL. THE MILITARY OFFENSIVE IN THE YARI PLAINS HAS RESULTED IN NO SIGNIFICANT GUERRILLA LOSSES AS OF LATE SEPTEMBER. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF PARAMILITARY ACTIVITY FARTHER SOUTH, IN PUTUMAYO DEPARTMENT, AS OF LATE SEPTEMBER, BUT THERE ARE RUMORS OF A PARAMILITARY PRESENCE.

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(c)
Withheld under statutory authority of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C., section 403g)

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