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Objet: Chiquita Papers Document over \$800,000 in Payments to Colombian Guerrillas

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## 30+ YEARS OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACTION

## Chiquita Papers Document over \$800,000 in Payments to Colombian Guerrillas

**Internal Security Reports Detail Negotiations with Subversive Groups** 

Company Sought Quid Pro Quos with Insurgents; Funded Group That Went on "Joint Patrols" with Paramilitaries

National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 592

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Washington, D.C., May 11 2017 - Ten years have passed since Chiquita Brands was sentenced in the United States for financing an international terrorist group. In 2007, the company confessed to paying the paramilitary United Self-defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) and also admitted that between 1989 and 1997 it funded the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN), the country's two largest rebel groups.

But unlike the AUC, Chiquita's financial ties to guerrilla groups were not a concern of U.S. courts. The FARC and the ELN had not yet been declared foreign terrorist organizations by the U.S. when those



payments were made; and while both groups were so designated in October 1997, the court found no evidence that the company had paid either of them beyond that date.

With Colombian authorities now ready to prosecute banana company executives for funding Colombian guerrilla groups, a new batch of Chiquita Papers obtained under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) by the National Security Archive provides a detailed accounting of the payments that Chiquita Brands and three other banana companies made to Colombian insurgent groups between 1989 and 1997. The records for the first time reveal the minimum amounts of money Chiquita paid to the various Colombian guerrilla groups, and provide a unique, first-hand account of the harrowing and complicated security situation in Urabá from the practical and calculated perspective of one of the world's biggest fruit companies.

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National Security Archive, Suite 701 Gelman Library The George Washington University 2130 H Street, NW Washington, D.C., 20037

Phone: 202/994-7000 Fax: 202/994-7005 nsarchiv@gwu.edu

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