GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA OFFICIAL NEWSREEL RELEASE NO. 8

HAMILTON WRIGHT NEWSREEL NO. 1005.

EDITOR: This film is sent to you through the courtesy of the Government of Colombia, S.A. as a public service.

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755 Feet - 35mm FINE GRAIN "blown-up" from 16mm

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FIRST FILMS OF DEVASTATING EXPLOSION IN COLOMBIA PRESIDENT ROJAS PINILLA INSPECTS SOUTH AMERICA'S MOST TRAGIC ACCIDENT: CASUALTIES EXCEED 1,300

CALI, COLOMBIA (AUGUST 7)..... First motion pictures from the devastated city of Cali - boom town industrial centre of Colombia, as it staggers under the destruction of one of the worst accidents in the history of South America.

A convoy of seven trucks carrying 35 tons of dynamite explodes in downtown Cali with terrific destruction over a two square mile area. Latest reports show a total of over four hundred dead and more than eight hundred still in hospitals.

General Gustavo Rojas-Pinilla, President of Colombia, visits the disaster area with members of his Cabinet and accompanied by his wife, Senora Carola Correa de Rojas-Pinilla. Colombian sources have already donated more than \$5,000,000 for relief, to be distributed by SENDAS, the Colombian equivalent of the Red Cross, which is spearheading all relief and reconstruction.

The National Corporation of Public Services will immediately start construction of more than 400 new homes for families who have been made homeless by the blast.

President Rojas-Pinilla and his wife tour the hospitals of Cali and visit the injured. In a radio address the President declares his immediate concern is the moral and material, recuperation of Cali. SENDAS - Colombia's Secretariat for Social Action and Child Welfare - of which his daughter, Senora Maria Eugenia Rojas de Moreno is the director, works with all local groups to provide relief and reconstruction.

Now Government sources are trying to determine the cause of the explosion, since it seems unlikely that commercial dynamite, which comprised the official cargo of the convoy, could be exploded accidently.

Following is the proper assembly and continuity: - (Cali Disaster)

- 1. Three aerial shots Heart of Cali before explosion.
- 2. L.S. Centre of town showing modern office buildings and Plaza.
- 3. L.S. Centre of Cali as traffic moves around plaza.
- 4. L.S. Scenic of city showing river and church in background.
- 5. L.S. Of new hospital in Cali, one of the largest in South America.
- 6. M.L.S. Nurses and staff leaving hospital.
- 7. L.S. Typical modern homes in the suburban section of Cali.

## SCENES FOLLOWING THE EAPLOSION: -

- 8. L.S. Pan of centre of explosion area.
- 9. M.S. Pan of building to other levelled area.
- 10. Three L.S. Pan of devastated buildings.
- 11. M.S. Sparching in ruins for bodies.
- 12. M.S. SENDAS and RED CROSS working together to aid the injured and rescuers.
- 13. M.L.S. Continuing search of ruins (Long Pan).
- 14. M.S. Of Army officers directing the rescue work.
- 15. M.S. Soldier locates a body among the ruins.
- 16. (3 shots) M.S. Removing body from the ruins.
- 17. M.S. Pan of bodies laid out in temporary morgue.
- 19. M.L.S. Pan of industrial plant showing complete destruction.
- 19. M.S. Rescue workers carrying on their work.
- 20. M.S. Placing body of small child in an ambulance.
- 21. L.S. Pan the fire continues among the ruins.
- 22. L.S. Rescue workers and firemen rush to the scene.
- 23. M.L.S. Fire burning in the ruins as firemen continue the work (2 shots)
- 24. I.S. Pan People around the temporary morgue, waiting to help identify the dead.
- 25. Three shots of the pile of dead.
- 26. L.S. Pan line of people waiting to aid in identifying the dead.
- 27. FOUR M.C.U. of the dead.
- 28. M.S. Of rescuers covering their faces against the odour.
- 29. M.L.S. The dead lying in the cametary, broken vaults in background.
- 30. Three shots of broken vaults and bodies lying around.
  - M.C.U. Of open vault and pan to concrete base which shows the force of the explosion.
- 31. Various shots of rescue work Ambulance speeding to hospital.
- 32. M.L.S. Pres. Rojas Pinilla and his wife boarding a plane in Bogota to fly to Cali.
- 33. M.L.S. Pres. Rojas Pinilla and his wife leaving the plane in Cali.
  Honour guard lined up on each side.
- 34. M.S. Of President and his wife.
- 55. M.L.S. The President and his wife with his aides visit the scene of the blast (2 shots).
- 36. L.S. Pan of exploded area.
- 37. Two shots President Rojas Pinilla being shown sections of the destroyed area.
- 38. L.S. Of destruction showing a crumbled building.



- 39. M.S. President and his wife arrive at one of the hospitals to visit the injured.
- 40. Various scenes of the President visiting the injured and M.C.U. of the injured.
- 41. President arrives and the crowds outside wait and listen as he speaks from an upper window various scenes Colombian flag flying at half-mast.

O D FOTTOTON NO. 14198

COLOMBIA BLAST

Baruch-Fitzgerald

Gali, Golombia, an industrial and trade center near the Pacific ceast, sees what was a densely populated, busy downtown district burned into rubble by a devastating explosion. Bight city blocks are reduced to tangled ruins in the blast. It came at night when seven Army trucks leeded with government dynamite exploded where they had been parted evernight.

Murses and dectors join the rescue forces, hunting for victims

buried under tons of debris. Estimates of the dead sange as high

as twelve hundred persons. What set off the dynamite is not known,

but Celembia's President Gustave Rojas Pinilla visits the scene and

declares the datastrophe is 'a treacherous criminal conspiracy' with

subversive objectives. Damage alone is estimated at forty million

dellars in Celembia's most terrible disaster.