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| <516/c>  | <p>Raul Wallenberg had died in Lubyanka prison. Diligent searching of the Lubyanka files had unearthed a memo signed by one Dr Smoltsov, chief of medical services at the prison, to General Viktor Abakumov, the Minister of State Security, under whose 'special supervision' Wallenberg was being held. He had died in his cell, the memo claimed, 'presumably of a heart attack'. On the orders of Abakumov the body was cremated without a post-mortem. There, officially, the trail ends. General Abakumov, by bitter irony himself a Jew, was shot on the orders of his rival, Lavrenti Beria, in 1951. Dr Smoltsov's fate is unknown. Stalin is dead, and so since this summer is Andrei Gromyko, who as Deputy Foreign Minister at the time of the 1957 note, might have been in a position to provide some elucidation. In its absence, the Wallenberg enigma has persisted. For 20 years after 1957, reports of 'an old Swedish prisoner' somewhere in the giant Soviet penal camp system would reach the West. The instinctive secrecy of the Soviet Union, its propensity to lie, only fuelled the suspicions that the full truth had not been told. Now the advent of Mr Gorbachev, and the departure of Mr Gromyko, have rekindled hopes that it will be. If the 1957 explanation was false, the theory runs, then the subsequent loss of face would have been too great for a correction to be issued in Gromyko's lifetime. And it is surely in keeping with the Kremlin's efforts to win trust abroad, to remove once and for all an issue which intrudes into every high-level encounter with Sweden. Today no-one - with the possible exception of members of his family - seriously believes that Wallenberg is still alive somewhere in what is left of the Gulag Archipelago, four and a half years into perestroika. The question is rather exactly when, where and how he died. In the Soviet Union, unlike the West, Raoul Wallenberg is a little-known figure. Maybe, however, someone's memory will have been nudged by that photo flashed on television screens six weeks ago. In the meantime Andrei Sakharov, the human rights campaigner, has demanded a special investigation, independent of the government, to check the evidence and sift every rumour. He himself paid two fruitless visits to the site of a camp near Torzhok, 200 miles north of Moscow, where as late as 1987 Wallenberg was said to have been held. But no corroboration was forthcoming, either from local residents or from former camp officials. More nagging is the suspicion that Wallenberg did not die of a heart attack at</p> |
|  <p>Key:<br/> <a href="#">Footprint</a><br/> <a href="#">ConEn1</a><br/> <a href="#">Footprint</a><br/> <a href="#">ConEn2</a><br/> <a href="#">Footprint</a><br/> <a href="#">ConEn3</a></p> | <p><b>the age of 35</b></p> <p>, but was murdered or tortured to death. The problem is the familiar one when trying to establish the exact fate of millions of Stalin's victims: detailed records of the security police, if they ever existed, have probably long since been destroyed. Barco moves too late to break the drug barons From SIMON FISHER in Bogota ALMOST two months into Colombia's crackdown on the cocaine cartels, it is becoming increasingly clear that President Virgilio Barco has launched a war he can not win. Although President Barco is given credit for good intentions, the fear is that his move has come too late: by now, the money at stake is too big, the drug barons too firmly entrenched in Colombian society, and the state institutions too deeply</p>  |

compromised by too many years of complacency, if not complicity. At the moment, the 'war' has become distilled to a hunt for Pablo Escobar and Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, two of the heads of the Medellin cartel. The Ochoa family, whose patriarch freely gives interviews to the press on his family farm, seem to have been forgotten, as do the Rodriguez Orejuela brothers and Jose Santacruz, who lead the Cali cartel. Rodriguez Gacha and Escobar are undoubtedly worthy of pursuit. But the others are no prettier, and neither are the hundreds of hoods behind them waiting to take their gold-plated places. Neither has been caught because both seem to have known of the swoops on their many hide-outs even before the authorities who conducted them. This drug duo may have been singled out because their penchant for fine racehorses and private zoos, not to mention murder on a massive scale, made them the most public of the mafia bosses. But some commentators believe that it may also be because, unlike other cartel kingpins, Escobar and Rodriguez Gacha are social upstarts who have clawed their way out of the gutter. Colombia's ruling class maintains the conservative interests of its aristocratic lineage. The clampdown has exposed the close links between landowners, the security forces and the cocaine cartels, who set up paramilitary squads to 'clean out' left-wing activists from rural areas such as the Magdalena Medio. Politicians who have their power base in these areas, including several presidential candidates, are also implicated. The drug barons have themselves become substantial land holders, effectively controlling several departments. Amnesty International's report that this unholy alliance is responsible for at least 2,500 political killings in the past two years demonstrates that the Colombian authorities are more interested in waging a war on the left than on the drug cartels. After 10 years, the cocaine trade has joined, and to some extent displaced, the traditional elite class. The