

## **LATIN REPORTER, HERE TO ATTEND AWARDS, IS HELD**

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### **Body**

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A journalist from Colombia, invited to the United States by Columbia University to attend ceremonies honoring Latin American journalists, was being detained yesterday by the Immigration and Naturalization Service after her name appeared in the service's "Lookout Book."

Immigration officials declined to specify why the journalist - Patricia Lara, 35 years old, a reporter for El Tiempo, the leading newspaper in Colombia - had been denied admission to the United States after her arrival in New York on Sunday night. A State Department official, who did not want to be identified, said Miss Lara had been placed on the list, "based on classified information," but would provide no details.

Reached at the immigration detention center on Varick Street in lower Manhattan, Miss Lara said that she had not been informed of specific reasons why her name was in the book. The Colombian Ambassador to the United States, Francisco Posada, asked the State Department yesterday for an explanation.

"I don't know what happened," Miss Lara said. "The last time I came here was in March and April, for vacation, and there was no problem at all."

'Temporarily Excludable'

"They asked me if I had written things against the U.S. Government," Miss Lara said in describing her arrival at Kennedy International Airport Sunday. "I said I have written against the Reagan policy in Central America. I also wrote a book. Maybe they didn't like the book. It's a profile of three M-19 leaders." M-19 is a guerrilla organization in Colombia.

When asked why Miss Lara was being detained, an immigration service spokesman, Charles Troy, said, "Based upon information in the I.N.S. Lookout Book, she was found temporarily excludable, under Section 235C of the Immigration and Nationality Act." Section 235C, he said, deals with aliens suspected of communist, subversive or terrorist activity.

Mr. Troy said Miss Lara's case would be reviewed by the eastern regional commissioner for the immigration service, Stanley E. McKinley, within a week.

Asked last night whether Miss Lara was free to leave the country if she chose, Mr. McKinley said he could not comment on a pending exclusion case.

Mr. Troy, when asked where names in the Lookout Book come from, said: "From various sources. We can put names in there; also, other national agencies and international agencies can put information in there." Those

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agencies include, he said, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration and the State Department.

"Our embassy has issued a diplomatic note to the U.S. State Department, requesting an explanation and also stating our surprise," said a spokesman for Ambassador Posada, Virginia Verela. "In Colombia, we have free press."

## Similar Episode Last Month

Miss Lara's lawyer, Arthur Helton of the Lawyer's Committee for Human Rights, said, "It sounds to me as though there's a journalist of considerable pedigree here who's been victimized by these provisions that are relics of the Cold War era."

The case is reminiscent of the detention on Sept. 25 of Tom Ronse, a reporter for a Belgian newspaper, De Morgen, after Customs Service inspectors found Communist documents in his luggage. He claimed he was doing research on Communist groups and was eventually cleared by the immigration service.

Miss Lara, who received a master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in 1980, had been invited by the school to attend the presentation tomorrow of the Maria Moors Cabot Prizes. The awards are presented annually to journalists who make "distinguished contributions to inter-American understanding and freedom of information." Miss Lara is not a recipient of the prize.

## Classification

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