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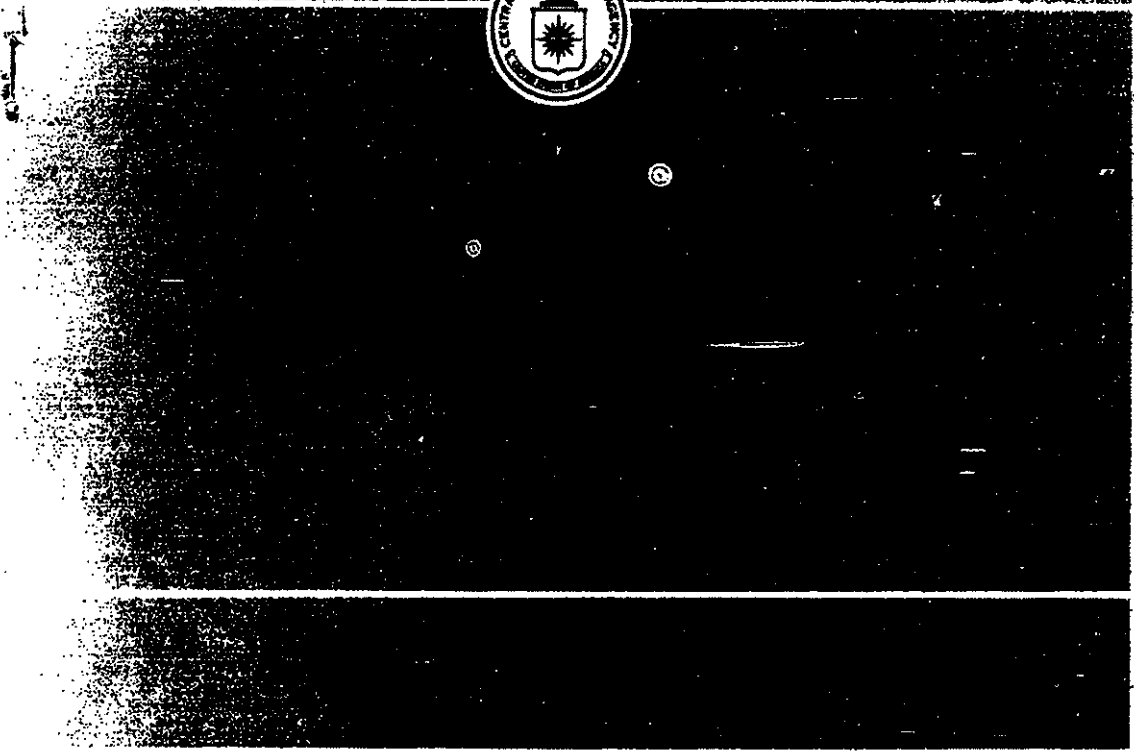
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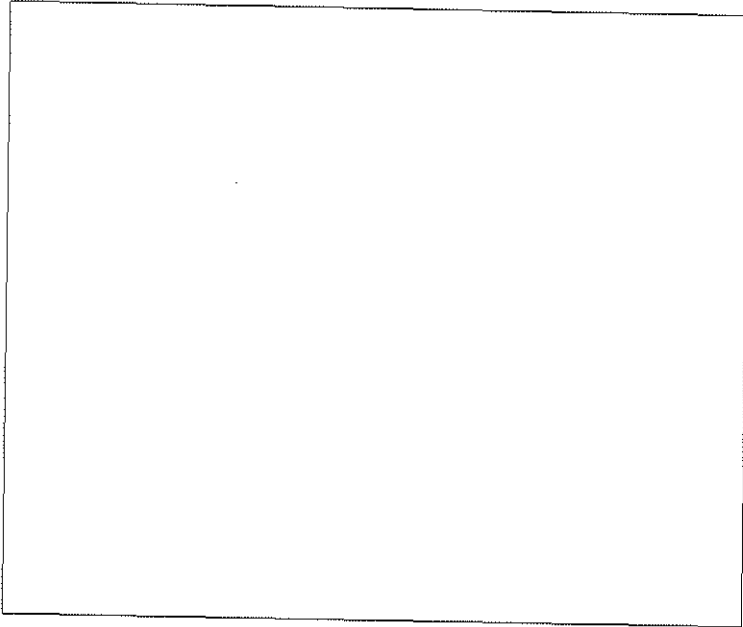
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COLOMBIA: Escobar Ups the Ante

Fugitive kingpin Pablo Escobar probably was responsible for the car bombing in Medellin that killed 16 people last week. Police have since defused four more car bombs in the city.



Comment: Escobar is retaliating for the recent successes of the Colombian security forces against his organization, which include the killings of key lieutenants responsible for his safety. He undoubtedly hopes the terror campaign will reduce government pressure and revive negotiations that would let him surrender on favorable terms. Bolstered by strong popular support for its hardline response to recent insurgent violence, Bogota is unlikely to back down unless Escobar dramatically increases the civilian toll.

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