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152106Z JUL 93

FROM

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO

TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 7652

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1980

-RUEADWW/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC

RUEHNA/DEA WASHDC

RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 0295

CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 SANTIAGO 05059

USIAC

USIA FOR AR; P/G; P/D; E/VGR

STATE FOR ARA/SC; INR/IAA

WHITE HOUSE FOR ONDCP PA - AO'NEAL

DEA FOR OFL E.PEREZ

AMEMBASSY FOR PAO/O

E.O. 12356: N/A

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

SUBJ: MEDIA REPORT ON THE DEA

JULY 6 THROUGH 14 SANTIAGO DAILIES HAVE CARRIED STORIES ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF NICOLAS ESCOBAR (NEPHEW OF DRUG KINGPIN PABLO ESCOBAR) IN SANTIAGO. THESE STORIES HAVE MADE FREQUENT MENTION OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION CARRIED BY SANTIAGO DAILIES ON THE TOPIC.

1. JULY 6 CONSERVATIVE POPULAR DAILY "LAS ULTIMAS NOTICIAS" WAS THE FIRST TO MENTION THE DEA IN A STORY ENTITLED "DEA TRIED TO TAP TELEPHONES." EXCERPT FOLLOWS:

"THERE IS CONCERN IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES RESULTING FROM THE PARTICIPATION IN CHILE OF THE AMERICAN DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN THE CASE OF THE PRESENCE IN CHILE OF SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF PABLO ESCOBAR GAVIRIA, HEAD OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL.

"THE (CONCERN) BEGAN AFTER THE CHILEAN POLICE WERE ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT AGENTS OF THAT FOREIGN ORGANIZATION (DEA) CARRIED OUT ACTIONS THROUGH A LOCAL TELEPHONE COMPANY THE PURPOSE OF WHICH WERE

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TAPPING THE TELEPHONE BEING USED BY THE RELATIVES OF THE 'DRUG CZAR' IN OUR COUNTRY.

"THE CIVIL POLICE (INVESTIGACIONES) FOUND THIS OUT A FEW DAYS BEFORE JUNE 25 AND REPORTED IT TO THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, YESTERDAY THE POLICE CONFIRMED THEY HAD KNOWN BEFOREHAND OF THE ARRIVAL IN CHILE OF THE ESCOBAR FAMILY...THE OS-7 (PART OF THE CARABINEROS) KNEW OF THE PRESENCE IN CHILE OF THESE PEOPLE AND WAS FOLLOWING THEM TO TRY TO PROVE A CRIME,' SAID AN OFFICER. WHAT HE DID NOT SAY THOUGH, IS THAT THE UNIT IN CHARGE OF DRUG AND CRIME PREVENTION OF THE POLICE, THE OS-7, HAD BEEN ALERTED OF THE SITUATION BY THE DEA...

"BUT THE ROLE OF THE DEA IN CHILE IS NOT LIMITED TO JUST DELIVERING INFORMATION TO ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS. IT IS KNOWN THAT A DEA OFFICE EXISTS IN CHILE, WITH A LIMITED NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AND THAT IT IS LED BY A WOMAN. THEY (THE DEA) WORK WITH THE SUPPORT OF A NET OF INFORMERS WHOSE SIZE IS UNKNOWN, ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES..."

2. JULY 9 SANTIAGO TOP CIRCULATION DAILY "LA TERCERA" CARRIED AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "OS-7 FOLLOWED THEM FROM THE BEGINNING." EXCERPT FOLLOWS:

"THE FIRST STEPS WERE CARRIED OUT BY MEMBERS OF THE SPECIALIZED UNIT OF CARABINEROS, OS-7, WHO... BEGAN TO CARRY OUT A CAREFUL AND QUIET JOB (OF FOLLOWING THEM)...TO ESTABLISH THE POSSIBLE ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS THEY COULD HAVE IN CHILE. HOWEVER, PUBLICITY FROM THE MEDIA PREVENTED THEM FROM GOING ON.

"THE INFORMATION WAS CONFIRMED YESTERDAY BY THE HEAD OF THE OS-7, LIEUTENANT CORONEL JAIME RIEUTORD. RIEUTORD SAID 'THE DEA, INFORMED THE OS-7 AFTER THE ESCOBAR FAMILY WAS ALREADY IN CHILE... WE BEGAN INVESTIGATING AND CONFIRMED THEY HAD ENTERED THE COUNTRY THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS. WE EVALUATED THE SITUATION AND DECIDED A COURSE OF ACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR PROCEDURES..."

3. JULY 9 CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT CENTRIST "LA EPOCA" CARRIED THE HEADLINE "OS-7 HID DURING 22 DAYS THE PRESENCE OF THE ESCOBAR FAMILY IN SANTIAGO." WHICH STATED:

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"...THE OS-7... HAD BEEN ALERTED BY THE DEA THAT
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/

THE ESCOBAR FAMILY WAS GOING TO LEAVE PANAMA FOR
CHILE, WHERE THEY ARRIVED ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2.

"THE GOVERNMENT FOUND OUT ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF
THE SEVEN COLOMBIANS ON THURSDAY, JUNE 24, THAT IS,
22 DAYS LATER, WHEN AN EXECUTIVE OF A PRIVATE
TELEPHONE COMPANY INFORMED THE MINISTRY OF THE
INTERIOR THAT THE DEA HAD REQUESTED AUTHORIZATION TO
TAP A TELEPHONE IN THE APARTMENT-HOTEL WHERE THE
FAMILY OF NICOLAS ESCOBAR URQUIJO WAS STAYING...

"THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR CONTACTED THE DEA
IN SANTIAGO, AND WAS ASSURED THAT THE CHILEAN POLICE
ALREADY KNEW OF THE PRESENCE OF THE ESCOBAR FAMILY IN
CHILE...

"ACCORDING TO MEGAVISION (TELEVISION CHANNEL 9
NEWS) THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED ITS
DISPLEASURE TO THE DEA FOR ITS HAVING INFORMED ONLY
THE OS-7 OF THE TRIP OF THE ESCOBAR FAMILY AND NOT
THE GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY..."

4. SANTIAGO 9 GOVERNMENT OWNED "LA NACION" CARRIED A
STORY ENTITLED "GOVERNMENT REQUESTS A REPORT FROM THE
POLICE," WHICH STATES IN PART:

"ONCE THE GOVERNMENT REALIZED THE DEA HAD
INFORMED THE POLICE OF THE PRESENCE IN CHILE OF THE
ESCOBAR FAMILY, THEY IMMEDIATELY REQUESTED A REPORT
FROM THE POLICE."

EXCERPTS OF QUESTIONS TO THE HEAD OF THE OS-7,
JAIME RIEUTORD:

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE OS-7 HAD BEEN ALERTED BY
THE DEA OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE ESCOBAR FAMILY IN CHILE
BEFORE THE CIVIL POLICE KNEW OF THE FACT?

A: IT IS TRUE. WE HAD SOME INFORMATION, WHICH
WE WERE STUDYING ACCORDING TO OUR PROCEDURE
GUIDELINES.

Q: WHY WAS THE GOVERNMENT NOT INFORMED?

A: WE WERE DOING OUR JOB ACCORDING THE NATURE OF
THE EVENTS... AND THE TECHNICAL REASONS WHY THE
GOVERNMENT WAS NOT INFORMED HAVE ALREADY BEEN
REPORTED TO THEM...

Q: YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT THE ARRIVAL OF THE
ESCOBAR IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FIRST GROUP ARRIVED ON

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JULY 2?

A: NO. WE GOT INFORMATION AFTER THAT, WHICH WAS BEING PROCESSED THROUGH THE TECHNICAL CHANNEL AT THAT MOMENT WHICH WAS THE DEA... WE RECEIVE INFORMATION, STUDY THE NATURE OF THE EVENT... AND DECIDE THE COURSE OF ACTION..."

5. THAT SAME DAY "LA NACION" CARRIED ANOTHER PIECE ENTITLED "TOO MUCH POLICE CONCEALMENT AFFECTED PREVENTIVE MEASURES." EXCERPT FOLLOWS:

"FOR A LONG TIME THE DEA HAS BEEN FOLLOWING EVERY MOVE OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF THE DRUG CZAR, THE COLOMBIAN DRUG DEALER AND MOST WANTED MAN IN THE WORLD, PABLO ESCOBAR GAVIRIA.

"SO, WHEN THE SON OF ROBERTO ESCOBAR... NICOLAS ESCOBAR URQUIJO HAD TO LEAVE COLOMBIA TOGETHER WITH HIS FAMILY BECAUSE OF THREATS FROM THE 'PEPES'..., THE DEA WAS WATCHING THEM.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 003 *****/

"FURTHERMORE, HAVING CHECKED THEIR MOVEMENTS AND CONTACTS, THE DEA FOUND OUT IN MAY THAT THE ESCOBAR FAMILY WOULD TRAVEL TO CHILE ON JUNE 2.

"WITH THIS INFORMATION, THE DEA CONTACTED THE POLICE OS-7 AND ALERTED THE CHILEAN POLICE TWO DAYS BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE ESCOBARS.

"ON JUNE 2 NICOLAS ESCOBAR ET AL... ARRIVED... WITHOUT BORDER CONTROL OFFICIALS BECOMING AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THEY WERE MEMBERS OF THE CLAN OF THE DRUZ CZAR...

"THE OS-7 AND THE DEA DID NOT LOSE TRACK OF THEM... HOWEVER, NEITHER THE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES NOR THE CIVIL POLICE WERE INFORMED...

"ON JUNE 22 THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE ESCOBAR FAMILY DECIDED TO GO TO MENDOZA, ARGENTINA BY LAND... WHICH ALERTED THE CIVIL POLICE...

"FROM THEN ON THE CIVIL POLICE BEGAN TO FOLLOW THEM TOO, WHILE A REPORT WAS BEING FILED FOR THE GOVERNMENT...

"HOWEVER, LA MONEDA (THE CHILEAN WHITEHOUSE) ALREADY HAD SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THE PRESENCE IN CHILE OF THE ESCOBAR FAMILY. A TELEPHONE COMPANY HAD REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE FACT THAT TWO PEOPLE HAD REQUESTED TO TAP A TELEPHONE...WHERE THE

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ESCOBAR WERE STAYING. THEY WERE PEOPLE FROM THE AMERICAN DEA..."

6. JULY 11 GOVERNMENT-OWNED "LA NACION" CARRIED A STORY ENTITLED "CHILE WILL PROTEST BEFORE THE U.S. FOR DEA ACTIONS." EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

"...ON JUNE 24 A WORKER OF THE 'COMPLEJO MANUFACTURERO DE EQUIPOS TELEFONICOS' CALLED THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR TO INFORM THEM OF A FACT THAT SEEMED 'STRANGE AND SERIOUS': SOMEONE WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A MEMBER OF THE DEA HAD REQUESTED TO TAP TELEPHONE NUMBER 2512258 WITHOUT A JUDICIAL ORDER..."

"AFTER A FEW HOURS IT WAS KNOWN BEYOND A DOUBT THAT JORGE ALARCON DUBOIS, OF THE DEA IN CHILE, WAS FOLLOWING A COLOMBIAN WOMAN BY THE NAME OF DORA MARIA CADAVID DELGADO... THE SURPRISE IN THE GOVERNMENT WAS ENORMOUS WHEN THEY FOUND OUT THAT THE MAN ACCOMPANYING THE WOMAN WAS THE NEPHEW OF ...PABLO ESCOBAR..."

"THE DEA WAS NOT HAPPY. TO THE PROBLEMS ORIGINATED WITH THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT DUE TO THE DISCOVERY OF THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN CHILEAN TERRITORY THEY COULD ADD THE FACT THAT THE POLICE DID NOT INFORM THEM OF THE TRIP OF ESCOBAR TO ARGENTINA..."

"THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ALREADY HAS A FORMAL PROTEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE TO THE DEA FOR VIOLATING CHILEAN LAW. THE DEA IS AN ORGANIZATION WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN CHILE AND A PROTEST OF THIS KIND COULD MEAN LIMITING ITS MOVEMENTS AND EVEN REDUCING ITS PERSONNEL...." DANDRIDGE

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ADMIN

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