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B1, 1.4(D) CS4

**DTG**

182328Z FEB 93

**FROM**

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

**TO**

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5190

**CONTROLS**

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 02707

NSC ALSO FOR RICHARD FEINBERG

DEA FOR OF, OFL, DO, AO, AX, OC, NK

CINCSO AND CINCLANT ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

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

**BODY**

TAGS: SNAR, PINS, PHUM, ASEC, CO

SUBJECT: IMPORTANT ESCOBAR HENCHMAN BELIEVED BEHIND

- BOGOTA BOMBS SURRENDERS; FIRST SINCE OCT 15

REFS: A) BOGOTA 2508, B) BOGOTA 1990,

- C) 92 BOGOTA 15494, D) 92 BOGOTA 15443

1. (U) SUMMARY: CARLOS ALZATE ("EL ARETE"), BELIEVED TO BE DIRECTING THE RECENT SPATE OF BOGOTA CAR BOMBINGS, SURRENDERED IN MEDELLIN FEBRUARY 17, AND WILL BE JAILED IN THE ITAGUI PRISON WITH THE FORMER ENVIGADO INMATES. ALZATE'S SURRENDER WAS THE FIRST SINCE OCTOBER 15. MEANWHILE, "PEPES" ARE BEING BLAMED FOR THREE FEBRUARY 17TH ATTACKS AGAINST ESCOBAR. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) CARLOS ALZATE URQUIJO ("EL ARETE"), ONE OF PABLO ESCOBAR'S TOP TERRORISTS WHO IS BELIEVED TO HAVE DIRECTED THE RECENT SPATE OF BOGOTA CAR BOMBINGS, SURRENDERED IN MEDELLIN LATE FEBRUARY 17. ALZATE, WHO NOW WILL BENEFIT FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S SENTENCE REDUCTION DECREES, WILL BE JAILED IN THE ITAGUI PRISON ALONG WITH HIS FELLOW ESCOBAR ORGANIZATION COLLEAGUES, THE FORMER ENVIGADO INMATES. THE GOVERNMENT HAD OFFERED A 100-MILLION-PESO (ROUGHLY USDOL 140,000) REWARD FOR ALZATE, WHO IS BELIEVED TO HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN THE KIDNAPPING, TORTURE AND MURDER OF THE MONCADA AND GALEANO BROTHERS.

3. (U) ALZATE'S SURRENDER, WHICH CAME AS A SURPRISE, WAS THE FIRST SINCE LUIS CARLOS AGUILAR GALLEG0 ("EL

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MUGRE"), ONE OF THE NINE ENVIGADO INMATES WHO ESCAPED WITH ESCOBAR, BECAME ON OCTOBER 15 THE SEVENTH TO RESURRENDER (REFTEL D). THE NEXT DAY, TWO OF AGUILAR'S BODYGUARDS WERE SHOT TO DEATH MINUTES AFTER BEING RELEASED BY POLICE (REFTEL C). ESCOBAR BLAMED POLICE FOR THE SLAYINGS, AND SUBSEQUENTLY HALTED THE RESURRENDERS, INCLUDING HIS OWN.

4. (U) ALZATE'S SURRENDER CAME LATER THE SAME DAY THAT MORNING NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THE ARREST OF A WOMAN SUSPECTED OF HAVING PARKED ONE OF THE TWO CAR BOMBS THAT EXPLODED IN DOWNTOWN BOGOTA FEBRUARY 15 (REFTEL A). THE PRESS HAD EARLIER REPORTED THAT POLICE BELIEVED THE BOMBERS WERE WORKING FOR ALZATE.

5. (U) THE COLOMBIAN SECURITY FORCES' PABLO ESCOBAR TASK FORCE HAD SHOT TO DEATH LEONARDO DE JESUS RIVERA RINCON ("LEO"), REPORTEDLY ALZATE'S RIGHTHAND MAN, IN MEDELLIN FEBRUARY 4 (REFTEL B).

"PEPES" CREDITED WITH 3 NEW ATTACKS AGAINST ESCOBAR

6. (U) MEANWHILE, THE NEW SELF-PROCLAIMED TERRORIST GROUP "PEPES" (PERSECUTED BY PABLO ESCOBAR) IS BEING BLAMED BUT HAS NOT CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THREE NEW ATTACKS AGAINST ESCOBAR.

7. (C) CARLOS MARIO OSSA SALAZAR ("EL CANOSO"), ACCORDING TO THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE, A HIGH-RANKING MEMBER OF THE FINANCIAL BRANCH OF ESCOBAR'S ORGANIZATION, WAS FOUND SHOT TO DEATH AFTER HE HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED BY SEVERAL UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN EARLY FEBRUARY 17 IN MEDELLIN [REDACTED]

8. (C) SEVERAL UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN FORCED THEIR WAY INTO A MEDELLIN WAREHOUSE FEBRUARY 17 AND TORCHED A

/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 \*\*\*\*\*/

DOZEN OF HIS CLASSIC, ANTIQUE AUTOS. THE VEHICLES HAD BEEN CONFISCATED BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE WAREHOUSE WAS UNDER GOC CONTROL.

9. (U) ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ARSONISTS SET ABLAZE AGAIN FEBRUARY 17 THE SAME MEDELLIN LUXURY RESIDENCE, REPORTEDLY OF ESCOBAR'S WIFE, THAT WAS TORCHED FEBRUARY 15 (REFTEL A).

10. (C) COMMENT: NEITHER WE NOR THE GOC KNOWS WHY

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ALZATE SURRENDERED. PROSECUTOR GENERAL GUSTAVO DE GREIFF SPECULATED TO THE AMBASSADOR DURING A MEETING FEBRUARY 18 THAT ALZATE CAME IN EITHER BECAUSE (1) THE PRESSURE OF THE SECURITY FORCES' SEARCH FOR HIM BECAME TOO GREAT, OR (2) AS PART OF A LARGER PLAN POSSIBLY LEADING TO ESCOBAR'S SURRENDER. DE GREIFF COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT ALZATE WAS A TOUGH MAN WHO DID NOT SEEM LIKELY TO BEND TO PRESSURE. DE GREIFF'S EDUCATED GUESSES ARE AS GOOD AND IN LINE WITH OUR OWN. END COMMENT.

BUSBY

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ADMIN  
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