

CONFIDENTIAL

39918739

TITLE: SUBJECT: ESCOBAR PLOT TO KILL MAZA IN CARACAS FOILED

ORIGDATE: 199208211503

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 12339

TEXT:

TAGS: SNAR, PINR, PINS, PTER, VE, CO

COMBINE: COMPLETE

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA
PERS/ORG

SUBJECT: ESCOBAR PLOT TO KILL MAZA IN CARACAS FOILED

1. (U) SUMMARY: DAS CHIEF FERNANDO BRITO HAS CONFIRMED COLOMBIAN PRESS REPORTS OF A PLOT BY PABLO ESCOBAR TO KILL HIS PREDECESSOR, GEN. MIGUEL ALFREDO MAZA MARQUEZ, WITH A CAR BOMB IN CARACAS LAST FEBRUARY. THE SCHEME REPORTEDLY WAS THWARTED BY A COMBINATION OF THE FEBRUARY 4 COUP ATTEMPT AND COOPERATIVE POLICE INTELLIGENCE WORK BETWEEN COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES, WHO WERE TIPPED OFF IN ADVANCE BY THREE INFORMANTS, ONE OF WHOM WAS LATER FOUND MURDERED. MAZA, WHO AT THE TIME WAS WORKING AS A COUNTERNARCOTICS CONSULTANT FOR THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT, RETURNED TO COLOMBIA SHORTLY AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT, PUTTING AN END TO THE PLOT, WHICH ESCOBAR PLANNED TO CARRY OUT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF MEDELLIN POPULAR MILITIAS, A RARE ALLIANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE PLOT, WHICH WAS REPORTED IN THE COLOMBIAN PRESS LAST WEEK AND PUBLICLY CONFIRMED BY PRESENT DAS (DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY, ROUGH FBI EQUIVALENT) CHIEF FERNANDO BRITO, FIRST CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF AUTHORITIES IN JANUARY WHEN GOC INFORMANT OSCAR PEREZ CORREA ALERTED THE OFFICE OF COLOMBIA'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR. ACCORDING TO CORREA, THE PLAN WAS BEING COORDINATED BY GUSTAVO UPEGUI LOPEZ, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCCER CLUB, ATLETICO ENVIGADO, UNDER DIRECT ORDERS FROM ESCOBAR.

3. (U) IN A SIGN THAT ESCOBAR MAY HAVE LOST A GOOD

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DEAL OF HIS TERRORIST INFRASTRUCTURE AFTER HIS JUNE 1991 SURRENDER, UPEGUI REPORTEDLY CONTACTED MAURICIO MORALES ("FRANKLIN"), ALLEGED HEAD OF THE POPULAR MILITIAS IN MEDELLIN'S NORTHEASTERN NEIGHBORHOODS, TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY MANPOWER TO CARRY OUT THE PLOT. IT WAS MORALES THAT IN DECEMBER CONTACTED PEREZ CORREA. ALSO REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN THE PLOT WAS JUAN AMAYA, IDENTIFIED AS A LIAISON BETWEEN ESCOBAR'S ORGANIZATION AND THE MILITIAS.

4. (U) MEANWHILE, THE VENEZUELAN TECHNICAL JUDICIAL POLICE (PTJ) HEARD ABOUT THE PLOT INDEPENDENTLY FROM TWO SEPARATE INFORMANTS, A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF VENEZUELA STUDENT AND A JAILED COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKER.

5. (U) PEREZ CORREA, IN COORDINATION WITH THE AUTHORITIES, REPORTEDLY VOLUNTEERED AND WAS ASSIGNED TO DRIVE THE EXPLOSIVES FROM MAICAO (LA GUAJIRA), NEAR THE VENEZUELAN BORDER, TO CARACAS. PEREZ WAS GIVEN A LIST OF PERSONS TO CHECK IN WITH BY TELEPHONE IN VARIOUS VENEZUELAN CITIES IN ROUTE, ONE OF WHICH WAS ANTONIO CARMELO DIBIASER DALORSO IN VALENCIA, A KNOWN MONEY LAUNDERER. THE FEBRUARY 4 COUP ATTEMPT REPORTEDLY OCCURRED WHILE PEREZ CORREA WAS IN ROUTE TO CARACAS. SHORTLY AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT, MAZA RETURNED TO COLOMBIA.

6. (U) AUTHORITIES LOST CONTACT WITH PEREZ CORREA IN VENEZUELA FEBRUARY 12. TWO MONTHS LATER, THEY LEARNED OF HIS SLAYING, TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY, IN THEIR ENVIGADO HOME. MEANWHILE, THE STUDENT INFORMANT REPORTED BEING THREATENED, AND THE COLOMBIAN PRISONER WAS TRANSFERRED AFTER A RIOT THAT KILLED FIVE INMATES, WHICH PRISON AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY BELIEVED MAY HAVE BEEN TARGETED AT HIM.

7. (C) COMMENT: IF TRUE, THE DEAL BETWEEN ESCOBAR AND THE POPULAR MILITIAS IS THE FIRST SUCH WE HAVE HEARD OF. THE MILITIAS, WHICH IN GENERAL WERE FORMED AS URBAN FRONTS BY COLOMBIA'S GUERRILLA GROUPS, HAVE MADE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

A PRIORITY OF RIDDING THEIR POOR BARRIOS OF THE GANGS OF YOUNG HOODLUMS THAT OFTEN WORKED FOR ESCOBAR AS HITMEN AND TERRORISTS. MILITIAS SELLING THEIR SERVICES TO ESCOBAR WOULD REPRESENT AN URBAN REPEAT OF THE LATE 1980S RURAL ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE MEDELLIN CARTEL AND THE MAGDALENA MEDIO PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATION. ESCOBAR MAY HAVE LOST PART OF HIS PREVIOUS TERRORIST INFRASTRUCTURE, BUT IN COLOMBIA (ESPECIALLY AROUND MEDELLIN), WITH THE AMOUNT OF MONEY HE HAS AVAILABLE, REPLACING IT MAY ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME. END COMMENT.

BUSBY

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL



B3 CIA PERS/ORG

92 9368247 SCR PAGE 001 NC 9368247
TOR: 211519Z AUG 92 BOGOTA 12339

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL

CONTROLS: C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 12339 DEA FOR OF, OFL, DO, AO, AX, OC, OIOA NSC ALSO FOR AMBS PRYCE AND MCNAMARA CINCSO AND CINCLANT ALSO FOR POLAD E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

DECLASSON: MR

DOCPREC: R

DOCST: ACTIVE

DOCTYPE: IN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DOCUMENT_ID: 39918739
DOR: 19920821
FROM: FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
GUIDE-UID: 1012/1kfwmw
HEADER: RR RUEAIIA
DE RUEHBO #2339/01 2341503
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R <ORIGDTG>211503Z AUG 92</ORIGDTG>
<FROM>FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA</FROM>
<TO>TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0403
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0137
RHEHOND/DIRONDCP WASHDC//OR//
RUEBWJA/DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
RUEHNA/DEA WASHDC
RUEHFB/DIRFBI WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 0017
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 0131
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 0135
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RUCBSAA/USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC</TO>
BT

INPUT_ID: 92 9368247
ORIGIN:
PRODUCER: BOGOTA
RECEIPT DATE: 92 936824719920821112052
SOURCE-INFO: STATE IN R BOGOTA 12339 BOGOTA 199208211503
TAGS: TAGS: SNAR, PINR, PINS, PTER, VE, CO
TO: TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0403
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0137
RHEHOND/DIRONDCP WASHDC//OR//
RUEBWJA/DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC
RUEHNA/DEA WASHDC
RUEHFB/DIRFBI WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 0017
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 0131

CONFIDENTIAL

4

CONFIDENTIAL

RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 0135
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RUCBSAA/USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
TOR: 112052

CONFIDENTIAL

5