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TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- U.S. INDICTS PABLO ESCOBAR

ORIGDATE: 199208181616

SOURCE: STATE

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TEXT:

TAGS: OPRC, SNAR, KJUS, PREL, PGOV, DEA, US, CO

COMBINE: COMPLETE

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA
PERS/ORG

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- U.S. INDICTS PABLO ESCOBAR

1. AT 18:15 EDT, FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, SHORTLY AFTER RECEIVING CONFIRMATION FROM WASHINGTON, POST DISTRIBUTED TO ALL LOCAL MEDIA OUTLETS A PRESS STATEMENT ANNOUNCING THE 2 MILLION DOLLAR U.S. REWARD FOR PABLO ESCOBAR. THE ANNOUNCEMENT IMMEDIATELY RECEIVED PLAY ON ALL RADIO STATIONS AND MADE ALL THE EVENING TV NEWS PROGRAMS. ALL THE AUGUST 15 NEWSPAPERS CARRIED STORIES BASED ON THE PRESS RELEASE. THE STORY IN CONSERVATIVE TABLOID "LA PRENSA" LEFT OUT ANY MENTION OF CONTACTING THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE, THEREBY MAKING THE ESCOBAR CAPTURE EFFORT SEEM SOLELY A U.S. INITIATIVE.

2. FOLLOWING IS THE ENGLISH TEXT OF THE RELEASE:

-
- REWARD OFFERED FOR P. ESCOBAR CAPTURE

SANTAFE DE BOGOTA, AUGUST 14, 1992 -- TODAY, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, ANNOUNCED THAT PERSONS PROVIDING INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF PABLO ESCOBAR ARE ELIGIBLE FOR REWARDS OF UP TO \$2 MILLION (U.S. DOLLARS).

BASED ON A 1985 U.S. LAW, THE STATE DEPARTMENT CAN OFFER REWARDS UP TO \$2 MILLION FOR THE FOLLOWING:

A. INFORMATION THAT PREVENTS OR RESOLVES ACTS OF TERRORISM WHICH LEADS TO THE ARREST OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH INCIDENTS, AND/OR

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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B. INFORMATION THAT LEADS TO THE ARRESTS OF MAJOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS.

ESCOBAR HAS BEEN UNDER INDICTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES FOR SOME TIME FOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. YESTERDAY, THE FEDERAL PROSECUTOR FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK ANNOUNCED ESCOBAR'S INDICTMENT BY A GRAND JURY IN CONNECTION WITH THE NOVEMBER 27, 1989, BOMBING OF AVIANCA FLIGHT NO. 203, A CRIME THAT HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE AN ACT OF TERRORISM UNDER U.S. LAW.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT BRINGS TO \$3.4 MILLION DOLLARS THE PROSPECTIVE TOTAL OF REWARDS OFFERED FOR ESCOBAR'S ARREST. EARLIER THIS WEEK, THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA ANNOUNCED A REWARD OF \$1.4 MILLION.

IN ADDITION TO FINANCIAL INCENTIVES, THE U.S. REWARDS PROGRAM OFFERS THE POSSIBILITY OF RELOCATING THE WITNESSES TO THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES TO ENSURE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PERSONS WHO PROVIDE INFORMATION WHICH LEADS TO AN ARREST. THIS INCLUDES THE RELOCATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS.

TO DATE UNDER THIS PROGRAM, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS PAID APPROXIMATELY \$2 MILLION IN ANTI-TERRORIST REWARDS AND \$350,000 IN NARCOTICS RELATED REWARDS.

PERSONS IN COLOMBIA WITH INFORMATION ON ESCOBAR'S WHEREABOUTS ARE URGED TO EITHER CONTACT THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE OR TO CALL THE FOLLOWING HOT LINE NUMBERS BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 08:00 AND 20:00, ANY DAY OF THE WEEK UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST: BOGOTA 287-2908 OR 287-2986. PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTACT THE NEAREST OFFICE OF THE FBI OR THE DEA ANYONE WISHING TO PROVIDE INFORMATION MAY ALSO WRITE TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

- PROGRAM DIRECTOR
- P.O. BOX 96781

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- WASHINGTON, DC U.S.A. 20090-6781.
- FOR USE ON AN IF-ASKED-ONLY BASIS
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Q. DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO KIDNAP ESCOBAR?

A. NO. AS STATED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES COLOMBIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITION AGAINST THE EXTRADITION OF COLOMBIAN CITIZENS. AS PRESIDENT BUSH HAS MADE CLEAR, IT IS THE POLICY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO COOPERATE WITH ITS ALLIES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES RATHER THAN TO ACT UNILATERALLY. IT IS NOT THE POLICY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT KIDNAPINGS. THIS APPLIES DIRECTLY TO COLOMBIA WHICH IS ONE OF OUR CLOSEST ALLIES IN THE STRUGGLE TO END NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING.

Q. WILL THE REWARD BE PAID IF SOMEONE'S INFORMATION LEADS TO HIS CAPTURE BY COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES?

A. YES, THE IMPORTANT POINT IS NOT WHICH GOVERNMENT CAPTURES PABLO ESCOBAR; IT IS THAT HE BE CAPTURED. THE MONEY WILL BE PAID FOR HIS CAPTURE IN COLOMBIA BY COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES.

3. FOLLOWING IS THE HEADLINE TREATMENT FROM THE STORIES ABOUT THE PRESS RELEASE:

A. RULING LIBERAL PARTY ORIENTED LEADING DAILY "EL TIEMPO":

1) FRONT PAGE HEADLINE -- "U.S. -- A 2 MILLION DOLLAR REWARD."

2) THE JUDICIAL PAGE STORY PRINTED THE TEXT OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT:

SUBHEADLINE -- "THE (U.S.) AMBASSADOR NOTIFIED (GOC DEFENSE MINISTER) PARDO OF THE DECISION--"

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HEADLINE -- "THE U.S. OFFERS 2 MILLION DOLLARS FOR ESCOBAR."

B. RULING LIBERAL PARTY ORIENTED SECOND LEADING DAILY "EL ESPECTADOR":

1) FRONT PAGE HEADLINE -- "U.S. OFFERS 2 MILLION DOLLARS FOR ESCOBAR."

2) JUDICIAL SECTION STORY -- "3.4 MILLION DOLLARS FOR ESCOBAR."

C. OPPOSITION CONSERVATIVE TABLOID "LA PRENSA" NATIONAL SECTION:

SUBHEADLINE -- "THOSE INTERESTED CAN CALL THE FOLLOWING BOGOTA TELEPHONE NUMBERS BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 8 P.M.: 287-2908 OR 287-2986."

HEADLINE -- "THE U.S. OFFERS 2 MILLION DOLLARS FOR ESCOBAR."

D. OPPOSITION CONSERVATIVE TABLOID "EL NUEVO SIGLO":

1) FRONT PAGE STORY:

SUBHEADLINE -- "THE U.S. OFFERS 2 MILLION DOLLARS."

HEADLINE -- "2.4 MILLION DOLLARS (SIC) FOR PABLO ESCOBAR."

2) NATIONAL SECTION STORY:

SUBHEADLINE -- "THE UNITED STATES OFFERS 2 MILLION DOLLARS."

HEADLINE -- "2.4 MILLION DOLLARS (SIC) IN REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE CAPTURE OF ESCOBAR."

SUBHEADLINE -- "HE IS ACCUSED OF TERRORISM AGAINST U.S. CITIZENS. THE GOVERNMENT OF THAT COUNTRY ALSO OFFERS PROTECTION TO WITNESSES AND INFORMANTS."

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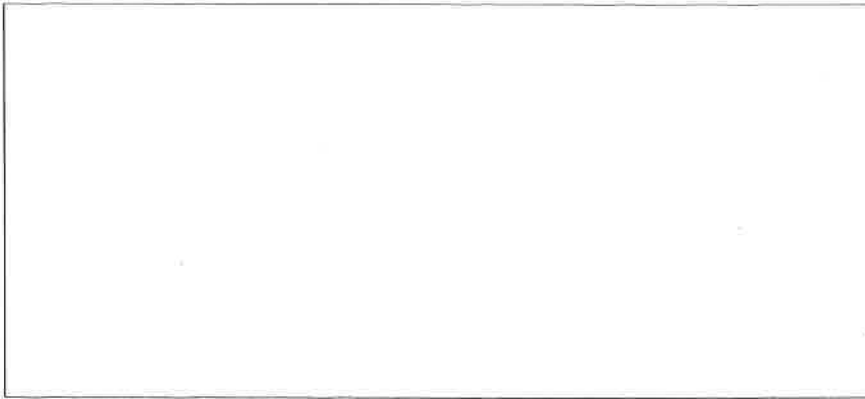
E. CONSERVATIVE BUSINESS DAILY "LA REPUBLICA" CARRIED A COLPRENSA COLOMBIAN NEWS SERVICE RELEASE. THIS MEANS THE STORY WAS ALSO DISTRIBUTED TO VIRTUALLY ALL PROVINCIAL PAPERS.

SUBHEADLINE -- "A UNITED STATES' OFFERING"

HEADLINE -- "AN ADDITIONAL 2 MILLION DOLLARS REWARD FROM THE UNITED STATES."

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END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED



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