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TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- ESCOBAR'S DISAPPEARANCE:
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS

ORIGDATE: 199208041751

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 11325

TEXT:

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

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- ESCOBAR'S DISAPPEARANCE:
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS

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1. OVER THE WEEKEND, SEVERAL ARTICLES APPEARED IN LOCAL PAPERS ABOUT PRONOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE ESCAPE OF PABLO ESCOBAR. TWO JULY 31 PAPERS, LEADING DAILY "EL TIEMPO" AND SECOND LEADING DAILY "EL ESPECTADOR" CARRIED STORIES ABOUT A JULY 21 STATEMENT BY REP. CHARLES RANGEL THAT WAS SUPPORTIVE OF THE GOC. THE AUGUST 1 EDITION OF CONSERVATIVE TABLOID "LA PRENSA" CARRIED A LOCALLY WRITTEN STORY THAT CONTRASTED THE CALMING STATEMENTS OF REP. RANGEL TO THE MORE INFLAMMATORY STATEMENTS OF REP. ROBERT TORRICELLI. THE LATTER'S STATEMENTS WERE INTERPRETED AS SUPPORTING AN U.S. INVASION OF COLOMBIA.

2. FOLLOWING IS THE HEADLINE TREATMENT ABOUT REP. RANGEL'S STATEMENT:

A. "EL TIEMPO" JUDICIAL PAGE STORY:

SUBHEADLINE -- "U.S. CONGRESS DEBATES THE FACTS OF ENVIGADO."

HEADLINE -- "GAVIRIA: WE ARE DETERMINED TO RECAPTURE PABLO ESCOBAR."

SUBHEADLINE -- "BASED ON REPORTS AND A LETTER FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA, CHARLES RANGEL, DIRECTOR OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' COMMITTEE ON THE CONTROL OF NARCOTICS REQUESTED THAT (U.S.) AID (TO COLOMBIA) TO FIGHT DRUG TRAFFICKING BE MAINTAINED."

REVIEW
AUTHORITY:
James
Cooper,
Senior
Reviewer

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NOTE: THIS STORY HAD A SIDEBAR PIECE ABOUT DOD SPOKESMAN ASD PETE WILLIAMS' JULY 30 COMMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN COLOMBIA.

B. "EL ESPECTADOR" JUDICIAL PAGE STORY:

HEADLINE -- "(THE GOC) REJECTED THE CORRUPTION IN THE CATHEDRAL (I.E., THE ENVIGADO PRISON),"

SUBHEADLINE -- "SAYS U.S. SENATOR (SIC) CHARLES RANGEL."

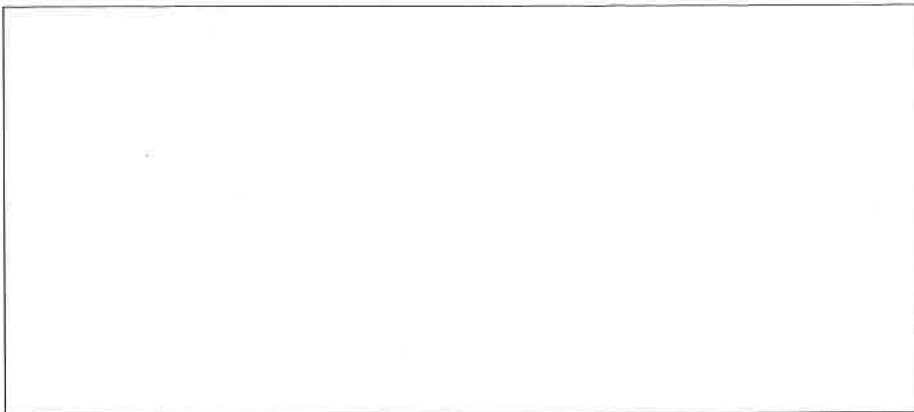
3. FOLLOWING IS THE HEADLINE TREATMENT FROM THE "LA PRENSA":

SUBHEADLINE -- "A LEGISLATOR OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (REP. TORRICELLI) INSISTS THAT THAT COUNTRY 'RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CARRY OUR A UNILATERAL ACTION, WHETHER IT BE COVERT OR NOT.'"

HEADLINE -- "THE U.S. CONGRESS ENCOURAGES AN INVASION BECAUSE OF THE ESCAPE OF PABLO ESCOBAR."
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END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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RUEBWJA/DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC//OPA/OIA// IMMEDIATE

RUEHNA/DEA WASHDC//CPP/BYOUT// IMMEDIATE

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//OASD(PA):DPL// IMMEDIATE

RHEHOND/DIRONDCP WASHDC//BBANTAAO'NEAL// IMMEDIATE</TO>

INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2571

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RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 3280

RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 9870

RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 9472

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