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TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- ESCOBAR'S DISAPPEARANCE: A LIMITED U.S. MILITARY INCURSION TO FIND HIM.

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- ESCOBAR'S DISAPPEARANCE: A LIMITED U.S. MILITARY INCURSION TO FIND HIM.

1. DURING A JULY 27 TELEPHONE INTERVIEW BY RADIO NETWORK RCN WITH BOB MCCARSON, THE PRESS SECRETARY OF REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES SCHUMER, MR. MCCARSON, SUPPOSEDLY SPEAKING FOR REP. SCHUMER, STATED THAT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE CONSIDERING U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION INTO COLOMBIA TO CAPTURE DRUG LORD PABLO ESCOBAR. MR. MCCARSON'S PATRONIZING COMMENTS ONCE AGAIN DRAW FORTH IMAGES OF THE "UGLY AMERICAN." THE INTERVIEW HAS BEEN REBROADCAST SEVERAL TIMES ON RADIO AND RECEIVED PLAY IN THREE LOCAL DAILIES. TWO OF THE DAILIES ATTRIBUTED THE COMMENTS NOT TO MR MCCARSON, BUT TO REP. SCHUMER HIMSELF. AND THE WORDS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER ARE BEING INTERPRETED AS USG POLICY.

2. FOLLOWING IS THE GIST OF MR. MCCARSON'S ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS ASKED BY THE LOCAL INTERVIEWER:

A. ESCOBAR'S ESCAPE HAS DEMONSTRATED THE "UNFORTUNATE FOLLY" OF THE GOC'S POLICY IN DEALING WITH THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

B. THE USG MADE "A MISTAKE" IN ALLOWING COLOMBIA TO GET RID OF EXTRADITION.

C. THERE WILL BE NO USG INTERVENTION AT THIS TIME, BUT IN A FEW DAYS CONGRESS MAY RECONSIDER SOME SORT OF INTERVENTION INTO COLOMBIA TO TAKE ESCOBAR BACK TO FACE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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U.S. JUSTICE.

D. MOST CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS FEEL THAT INTERVENTION IS A LAST RESORT.

E. SUCH INTERVENTION WOULD NOT BE ON THE SCOPE OF PANAMA.

G. WHAT MUST BE DONE IS THAT THE USG MUST GET THE GOC TO CHANGE ITS POLICY ON EXTRADITION.

H. SUCH AN INTERVENTION DOES NOT REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT. THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. CAN ORDER IT UNDER HIS OWN POWERS.

I. WHAT THE USG SHOULD DO IS PRESSURE THE GOC TO CHANGE ITS EXTRADITION POLICY.

3. FOLLOWING ARE THE HEADLINE TREATMENT AND SELECTED QUOTES FROM ARTICLES ABOUT THE INTERVIEW WITH MR. MCCARSON:

A. SECOND LEADING DAILY "EL ESPECTADOR" CARRIED A VERY SHORT PIECE IN ITS JUDICIAL SECTION:

HEADLINE -- "THE U.S. WOULD SUPPORT MILITARY INTERVENTION."

QUOTE -- "U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION IN COLOMBIA AS THE FINAL ALTERNATIVE TO DISMANTLE THE DRUG TRAFFICKING MAFIA IS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE CONGRESS OF THAT COUNTRY.

"THIS WAS STATED BY REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES SCHUMER WHEN HE WAS DISCUSSING THE ESCAPE OF PABLO ESCOBAR GAVIRIA."

B. CONSERVATIVE TABLOID "LA PRENSA" CARRIED ITS STORY IN ITS NATIONAL NEWS SECTION:

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SUBHEADLINE -- "PRESIDENT BUSH CAN DO IT WHEN HE WANTS AND IF HE SO DESIRES, SAYS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S. CONGRESS."

HEADLINE -- "THE U.S. CONGRESS ENCOURAGES MILITARY INTERVENTION AGAINST COLOMBIA."

QUOTE -- "CHARLES SCHUMER, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, TOLD RCN YESTERDAY THAT THE ESCAPE OF PABLO ESCOBAR REPRESENTED A COLOMBIAN FAILURE TO BRING THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS TO JUSTICE, AND STATED THAT 'THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES APPROVES MILITARY INTERVENTION' OF THAT COUNTRY INTO COLOMBIA."

C. CONSERVATIVE TABLOID "EL NUEVO SIGLO" CARRIED ITS STORY IN ITS NATIONAL SECTION:

SUBHEADLINE -- "ACCORDING TO A U.S. CONGRESSMAN"

HEADLINE -- "COLOMBIA TOOK A STEP BACKWARDS WHEN IT ABOLISHED EXTRADITION."

QUOTE -- "HERE (IN THE U.S.) MANY LEADERS HAVE ASKED FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION INTO COLOMBIA, BUT AS A LAST RESORT AND DIFFERENT FROM WHAT TOOK PLACE IN PANAMA," STATED MCCARSON.  
FALINO

END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED



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

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

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RHEHOND/DIRONDCP WASHDC, IMMEDIATE//BBANTA/AO'NEAL//</TO>

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RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 2117

RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 3200

RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 9794

RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 9418

RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 2566

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