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31425555

TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - USG VS. NARCOS

ORIGDATE: 198906152245

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 08995

TEXT:

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - USG VS. NARCOS

1. BOGOTA DAILIES 6/10 REPORTED ON U.S. PRESS ACCOUNTS OF AN ALLEGED PLAN TO ASSASSINATE COLOMBIAN DRUG LORDS, SUCH AS PABLO ESCOBAR OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL. PAGE ONE HEADLINE IN LEADING DAILY EL TIEMPO, CONCERNING A CALI CARTEL PLOT AGAINST ESCOBAR, INCLUDED THIS LINE: "A U.S. DAILY SAYS THE GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING A PLAN TO ASSASSINATE THE COLOMBIAN DRUG LORDS."

2. EL TIEMPO CARRIED AN INSIDE PAGE STORY ENTITLED "ACCORDING TO A MIAMI NEWSPAPER - THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF ASSASSINATING DRUG TRAFFICKERS." ARTICLE STATES THAT "A WORKING TEAM MADE UP OF U.S. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES IS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF PROPOSING TO PRESIDENT BUSH COVERT MURDER OPERATIONS AGAINST LEADERS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, ACCORDING TO FRIDAY'S EDITION OF THE MIAMI HERALD.

3. "THE MEASURE IS BEING CONSIDERED BY A TEAM CONVENED BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, AS PART OF A MILITARY OPERATIONS PLAN DESIGNED TO FIGHT DRUG TRAFFICKING. THE TEAM INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, JUSTICE, DEFENSE AND TREASURY, AS WELL AS THE CIA.

4. "'IF WE COULD ELIMINATE OR NEUTRALIZE SELECTIVELY, IN A MEETING OF FOUR OR FIVE LEADERS OF THE CARTEL, MAYBE WE COULD HINDER THEIR OPERATIONS FOR ABOUT 18 MONTHS,' SAID RAFAEL PERL, INTERNATIONAL SPECIALIST IN NARCOTICS WORKING FOR THE U.S. CONGRESS."

5. ARTICLE INCLUDED SIDEBAR ON DOS DENIAL, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING: "THE DEPARTMENT DENIED A PRESS REPORT THAT SAID THE (USG) WAS ANALYZING THE POSSIBILITY OF

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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ASSASSINATING THE CHIEF DRUG TRAFFICKERS IN A MORE AGGRESSIVE OFFENSIVE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING...

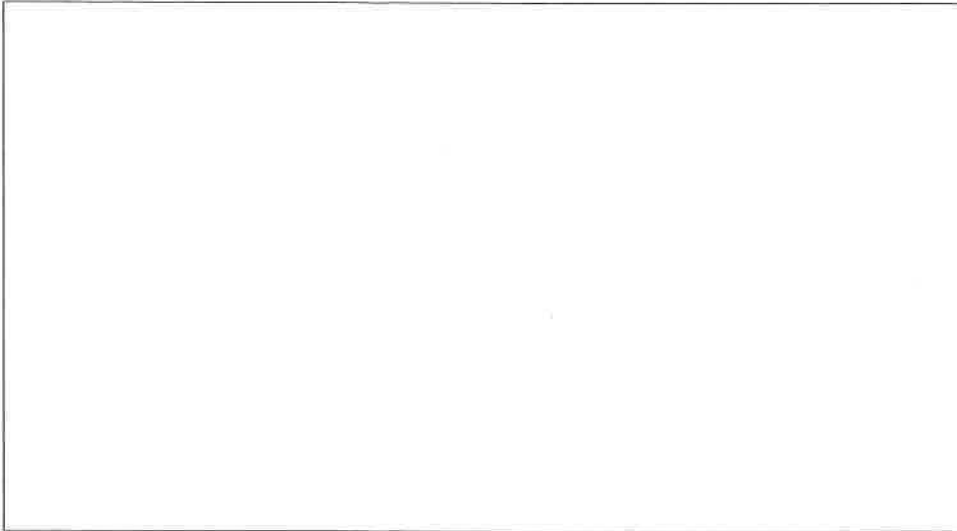
6. "MEANWHILE, DAVID MILLER, JR., SPECIALIST FOR THE NSC, TOLD CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS THAT IF COVERT ATTACKS AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARE CARRIED OUT BY STRIKE TEAMS, AMERICAN VICTIMS ARE TO BE EXPECTED." (END EL TIEMPO EXCERPTS).

7. ON 6/15 EL TIEMPO CARRIED ANOTHER WIRE STORY ENTITLED "CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSAL IN THE US. IN ORDER TO CAPTURE DRUG TRAFFICKERS - USD 5 MILLION FOR NORIEGA AND USD 1 MILLION FOR EACH OCHOA; PROPOSAL BY A U.S. CUSTOMS OFFICIAL HAS BEEN REJECTED BY SOME GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, BUT MANY AGENCIES INVOLVED IN CONTROLLING DRUG TRAFFICKING ARE STUDYING IT."

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END OF MESSAGE

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