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44213423

TITLE: SUBJECT: COUSIN OF PABLO ESCOBAR KILLED IN GUN BATTLE
- WITH POLICE

ORIGDATE: 199010262144

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 17177

TEXT:

TAGS: SNAR, CJAN, KJUS, CO

SUBJECT: COUSIN OF PABLO ESCOBAR KILLED IN GUN BATTLE
- WITH POLICE

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA PERS/ORG

REF: A) BOGOTA 12765, B) BOGOTA 9437

1. (U) LUIS HERNANDO GAVIRIA, DESCRIBED BY THE MEDIA AS A COUSIN OF MEDELLIN DRUG KINGPIN PABLO ESCOBAR GAVIRIA, WAS KILLED OCTOBER 23 IN A FIREFIGHT WITH MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE'S ELITE STRIKEFORCE (FUERZA ELITE).
2. (U) MEDIA ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT LUIS GAVIRIA AND SEVERAL BODYGUARDS WERE SURPRISED AND SURROUNDED BY POLICE "ELITE" UNITS AT A FARM OUTSIDE THE TOWN OF EL GUARNE, 35 KILOMETERS FROM MEDELLIN. THE MEN IGNORED POLICE DEMANDS TO SURRENDER AND OPENED FIRE IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE. THE POLICE RETURNED FIRE, KILLING GAVIRIA AND ONE OF HIS GUARDS. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE POLICE ALSO SEIZED TWO MACHINEGUNS, SEVERAL VEHICLES, AND "SOPHISTICATED" COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FROM THE FARM.
3. (U) THE FARM ASSAULT WAS PART OF OPERATION APOCALYPSE III, A CONTINUING SERIES OF POLICE RAIDS DIRECTED AGAINST NARCOTRAFFICKER ACTIVITIES NATIONWIDE. POLICE SOURCES TOLD THE MEDIA THAT LUIS GAVIRIA (ALIAS ABRAHAM) HAD ASSUMED THE ROLE OF CLOSE ADVISOR TO ESCOBAR PREVIOUSLY HELD BY COUSIN GUSTAVO GAVIRIA, WHO WAS KILLED BY POLICE ON AUGUST 10 (REF A).
4. (C) COMMENT: ESCOBAR HAS LOST A NUMBER OF PEOPLE CLOSE TO HIM IN BATTLES WITH THE POLICE THIS YEAR. IN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer
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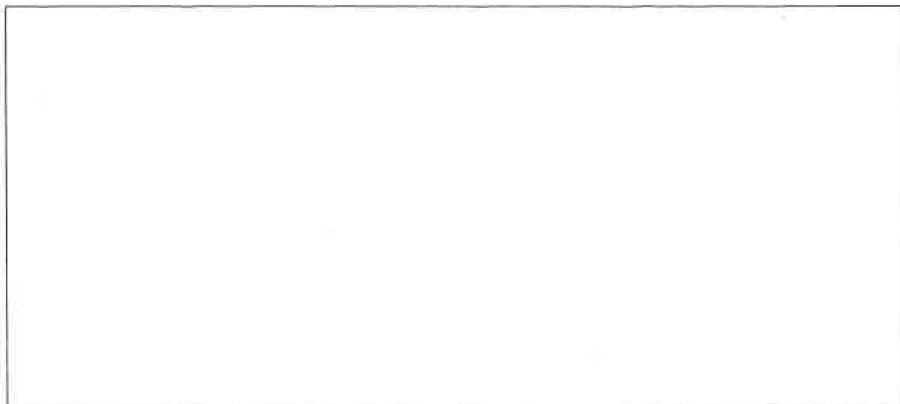
ADDITION TO HIS TWO COUSINS (LUIS AND GUSTAVO), THE
AUTHORITIES KILLED HIS CHIEF ASSASSIN, JOHN JAIRO ARIAS
TASCON ON JUNE 13 (REF B), AND ARRESTED HIS PRINCIPAL
PROPAGANDIST ROBERTO ESCOBAR TABORDA (EL POETA) ON JULY
18. THE LOSS OF SO MANY CLOSE CONFIDANTS IN SUCH A
SHORT TIME DAMAGES ESCOBAR'S ORGANIZATION, AND IT IS
POSSIBLE THAT THE DRUG CHIEF COULD ORDER REPRISALS.

MCNAMARA

END OF MESSAGE

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