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TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDELLIN CARTEL RETALIATES AGAINST INCREASED CNP  
ACTIVITY IN MEDELLIN

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TEXT:

TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: MEDELLIN CARTEL RETALIATES AGAINST INCREASED CNP  
ACTIVITY IN MEDELLIN

REF: A) BOGOTA 6850 B) BOGOTA 6399 C) BOGOTA 6124

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IN LESS THAN ONE MONTH, THREE BOMB ATTACKS HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE (CNP) FORCES OPERATING IN MEDELLIN. THE LATEST INCIDENT OCCURRED ON MAY 2, WHEN A BOMB OF APPROXIMATELY 50 KILOS DETONATED IN A SEWER MAIN AGAINST THE PERIMETER FENCE OF THE ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENTAL COMMAND IN WESTERN MEDELLIN. NO INJURIES WERE REPORTED.

3. HOWEVER, ALSO ON MAY 2, TWO CNP AGENTS WERE KILLED IN THE NARCO-CONTROLLED MEDELLIN SUBURB OF ENVIGADO. THE AGENTS WERE SHOT AT DIFFERENT TIMES DURING THE DAY WHILE PATROLLING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

4. OTHER CAR BOMB ATTACKS AGAINST THE CNP, ON APRIL 11 AND APRIL 26, RESULTED IN NINE POLICE FATALITIES WITHIN THE CNP ELITE CORPS (REF A). THE CNP ELITE CORPS HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN MEDELLIN, INTENSIFYING THE PRESSURE ON PABLO ESCOBAR AND DRAWING HEATED NARCO RETALIATION. THE ELITE CORPS IS KEPT APART FROM REGULAR CNP UNITS AND DEPART ON PATROLS AND RAIDS WITHOUT KNOWING THEIR DESTINATION IN ADVANCE. THE CNP PRESSURE ON MEDELLIN NARCOS CONTINUES AND CNP DIRECTOR GENERAL MIGUEL GOMEZ PADILLA PROMISED CHARGE AND NAU DIRECTOR DURING MAY 3 MEETING THAT THE MEDELLIN CARTEL'S PABLO ESCOBAR WAS GOING TO FALL SOON.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior  
Reviewer

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5. THE ELITE CORPS HAS PERFORMED EXTREMELY WELL SINCE ITS INCEPTION (REF B). NEWSPAPER FIGURES CREDIT THEM WITH SEIZURES OF OVER 21,500 KILOS OF COCAINE HCL IN THE PAST YEAR, IN ADDITION TO CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS WITH VARIOUS LABORATORIES AND CHEMICALS. THE ELITE CORPS ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE DECEMBER 15, 1989 OPERATION RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF JOSE GONZALO RODRIGUEZ GACHA.

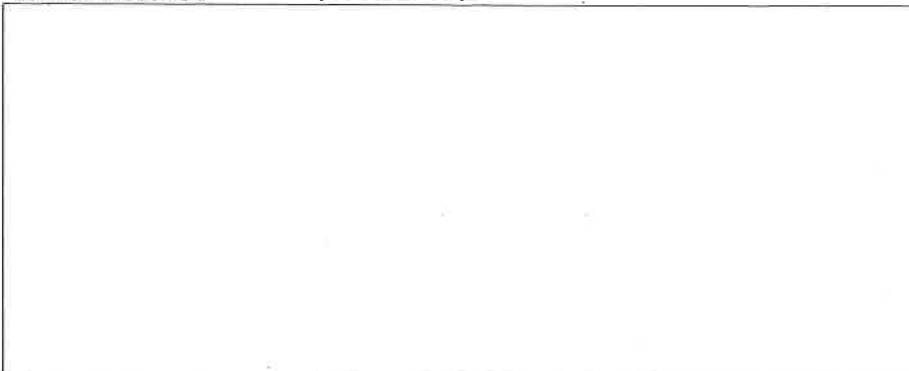
6. ACCORDING TO CNP OFFICERS WORKING IN, AND FAMILIAR WITH THE LOCAL SITUATION, THE MEDELLIN CARTEL HAS PLACED THE FOLLOWING BOUNTIES ON THE CNP IN MEDELLIN: 4 MILLION PESOS (APPROX. USD 10,000) FOR THE DEATH OF AN AGENT, 20 MILLION PESOS FOR THE DEATH OF AN NCO (SUB-OFFICIAL), 40 MILLION PESOS FOR THE DEATH OF AN OFFICER AND 100 MILLION PESOS FOR DOWNING A CNP HELICOPTER.

7. COMMENT: THE CONTINUED ATTACKS AGAINST CNP FORCES IN MEDELLIN DEMONSTRATE THAT THE VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE MEDELLIN CARTEL DID NOT DIMINISH WITH THE DEMISE OF JOSE GONZALO RODRIGUEZ GACHA. IN FACT, CARTEL MEMBERS ARE INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE VULNERABILITY OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONS AFTER HIS DEATH. UNFORTUNATELY, CNP ELITE CORPS FORCES HAVE NO ELEMENT OF SURPRISE IN THEIR MEDELLIN ACTIVITIES AND ARE OPERATING ON THE MEDELLIN CARTEL'S HOME TURF. CONTINUED ATTACKS ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE AND PERHAPS INCREASE AS THE CIRCLE DRAWS TIGHTER AROUND PABLO ESCOBAR AND THE DATE FOR COLOMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (MAY 27) APPROACHES.

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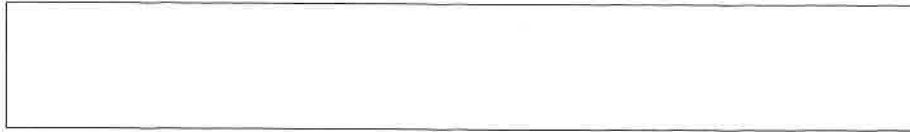


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