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TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - GOC MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - GOC MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

REF: BOGOTA 14100

1. ALL COLOMBIAN MEDIA (SEPTEMBER 6 AND 7) CARRIED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE GENERALLY POSITIVE COLOMBIAN AND U.S. REACTIONS TO THE NEW GOC MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT GAVIRIA ON SEPTEMBER 5 (REFTEL). RADIO NETWORKS STARTED TO AIR REPORTS ON U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD THORNBURGH'S STATEMENTS SUPPORTING THE GOC DECREE AT 5:00 PM ON SEPTEMBER 6. EVENING TV NEWSCASTS OF SEPTEMBER 6 ALSO CARRIED REPORTS ON THORNBURGH'S REMARKS. RADIO CADENA NACIONAL AND CARACOL RADIO AIRED SUMMARIES DURING THEIR EVENING NEWS PROGRAMS ON SIMILAR STATEMENTS MADE BY U.S. AMBASSADOR THOMAS MCNAMARA DURING A MEETING THEY HELD ON SEPTEMBER 6. LEADING COLOMBIAN DAILIES OF SEPTEMBER 7 CARRY EXTENSIVE COVERAGE AND EDITORIAL COMMENTARIES ON LOCAL AND U.S. REACTIONS TO PRESIDENT GAVIRIA'S DECREE.

2. CARACOL RADIO NETWORK AIRED AN INTERVIEW WITH FABIO OCHOA, PATRIARCH OF AN ALLEGED FAMILY OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS, DURING ITS SEPTEMBER 7 MORNING NEWS PROGRAM. OCHOA SAID THAT THE DECREE COULD VERY WELL BE A TRAP TO CATCH DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND EXTRADITE THEM. HE SAID HIS SONS WOULD NEVER INFORMHE ALSO ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF ONE OF HIS SONS SURRENDERS AND STARTS TELLING STORIES ABOUT FINANCING OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS, NAMELY THAT OF FORMER PRESIDENT BELISARIO BETANCUR.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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3. THE EDITORIAL COMMENTARIES IN LEADING COLOMBIAN DAILIES OF SEPTEMBER 7 ARE GENERALLY POSITIVE, EXPRESSING HOPE THAT THE GOC DECREE WILL HELP PUT AN END TO THE NARCOTICS SCOURGE. BLOCK QUOTES FROM REPRESENTATIVE EDITORIALS THAT INCLUDE U.S. SUPPORT TO THE GOC MEASURES FOLLOW:

4. SECOND LEADING NATIONAL DAILY EL ESPECTADOR (LIBERAL, CIRC. 140,000): "PRESIDENT GAVIRIA WAS SMART TO ANNOUNCE THIS NEW POLICY AT THE SAME TIME THAT HE ANNOUNCED THE RESUMPTION OF EXTRADITION. BY DOING SO HE UNDERSCORED WHAT HE SAID IN HIS INAUGURAL SPEECH, IN THE SENSE THAT THERE WILL BE VARIOUS TOOLS TO FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING, TO BE USED DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND ALWAYS UNDER THE CRITERIA OF COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES."

5. THE EDITORIAL ALSO SAID, "WHAT WAS ANNOUNCED WAS DECIDED AUTONOMOUSLY BY OUR GOVERNMENT, WITHOUT PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS OR TALKS WITH CRIMINALS." THE REMARK ABOUT CONSULTATIONS REFERS TO COMMENTS BY COLOMBIAN MEDIA REGARDING THE COINCIDENCE OF TIMING BETWEEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DECREE AND THE REMARKS MADE BY ONDCP DIRECTOR WILLIAM BENNETT DURING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY ON SEPTEMBER 5 (REFTEL).

6. CONSERVATIVE DAILY LA PRENSA (OPPOSITION, CIRC. 80,000): "THERE IS NO SURRENDER OF PRINCIPLES OR MORAL VALUES, NOR ANYTHING THAT MEANS A COMPROMISE BY THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM. IT DOES PRESENT PERSPECTIVES THAT WILL HELP PUT AN END TO THE LONG-LASTING FIGHT....THE U.S., PRESENTLY COMMITTED TO ITS EFFORTS IN THE WAR IN THE GULF, HAS PUT THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING ON THE BACK BURNER, AND DRUG CZAR BENNETT'S AGREEMENT WITH THE PLAN PRESENTED BY THE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT COULD HAVE BEEN FORESEEN."

7. LEADING COLOMBIAN DAILIES OF SEPTEMBER 7 CARRY EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE GENERALLY POSITIVE LOCAL AND

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U.S. REACTIONS, THE LATTER CONCENTRATING ON THE STATEMENTS OF U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD THORNBURGH AND AMBASSADOR MCNAMARA. REPRESENTATIVE HEADLINES FOLLOW:

8. LEADING NATIONAL DAILY EL TIEMPO (LIBERAL, CIRC. 235,000) ON U.S. REACTION: "REACTION IN WASHINGTON TO GAVIRIA'S ANTI-DRUG DECREE - SATISFACTION IN THE U.S."

9. EL TIEMPO ON COLOMBIAN REACTION: "THE GOVERNMENT PUTS INTO EFFECT A RESCUE OPERATION FOR THE JUSTICE SYSTEM - UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR THE DECREE." SUBHEAD: "THE REDUCTION OF SENTENCES FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS WHO CONFESS MEANS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SUBSTITUTE THE APPLICATION OF JUSTICE IN COLOMBIA FOR EXTRADITION AS A FUNDAMENTAL WEAPON IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING." RELATED STORIES ARE ENTITLED, "WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF PABLO ESCOBAR TURNED HIMSELF IN? - HE WOULD ONLY BE IN PRISON FOR EIGHT YEARS;" "THE LAWYERS' OPINION - THE DECREE STRENGTHENS JUDICIAL SOVEREIGNTY."

10. EL ESPECTADOR ON U.S. REACTION: "THE U.S. PRAISES NEW MEASURES." SUBHEAD: "THOMAS MCNAMARA AND DICK THORNBURGH EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE JUDICIAL MEASURES."

11. LA PRENSA ON U.S. REACTION: "THE U.S. IS SATISFIED WITH THE PROPOSAL MADE BY COLOMBIA TO THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS." SUBHEAD: "U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL DICK THORNBURGH SAID THAT FOR HIS COUNTRY IT IS BETTER IF COLOMBIA CAN TRY ITS OWN CITIZENS. IN A STATEMENT, THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BOGOTA SAID THAT IT CONSIDERS GAVIRIA'S ANNOUNCEMENT 'AN INNOVATIVE USE OF PLEA BARGAINING TO FIGHT THE DRUG CARTELS.' THE STATEMENT DENIED THAT THE U.S. IS DISAPPOINTED WITH GAVIRIA'S NEW POSITION REGARDING EXTRADITION."

12. RELATED STORY IN LA PRENSA: "CARTEL SUMMIT." SUBHEAD: "THE MEDELLIN CARTEL IS HOLDING MEETINGS AND ITS MEMBERS ARE WAITING FOR THEIR LAWYERS' ADVICE ABOUT

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SURRENDERING. THE CALI CARTEL IS ALSO STUDYING THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF GAVIRIA'S PLAN. THE MAIN POINTS ARE NO EXTRADITION AND A GUARANTEE FOR THEIR LIVES."

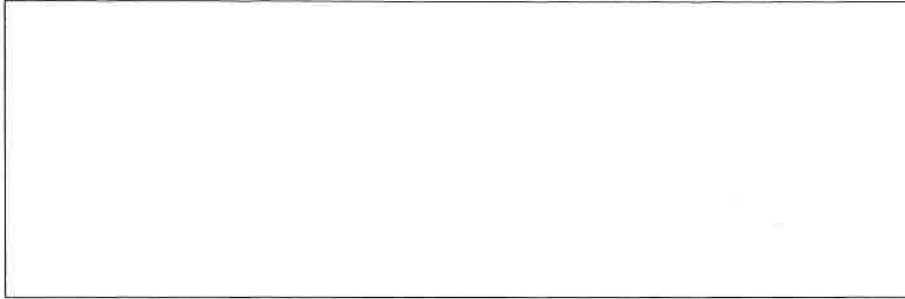
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