

SECRET//NOFORN

29964535

TITLE: SUBJECT: NARCOS CLAIM WILLINGNESS TO SURRENDER

ORIGDATE: 199002270033

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 02927

TEXT:

TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: NARCOS CLAIM WILLINGNESS TO SURRENDER

RELEASED IN PART B7(D),B3
CIA PERS/ORG

REF A) BOGOTA 596 B) BOGOTA 656

1. SECRET NOFORN -- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IN A FEBRUARY 25 LETTER THE "EXTRADITABLES" -- A NARCO FRONT GROUP CONTROLLED BY THE MEDELLIN CARTEL -- ANNOUNCED THEIR SUPPOSED WILLINGNESS TO TURN THEMSELVES IN AND SUBMIT TO THE "RULINGS OF JUSTICE IN COLOMBIA." THE LETTER, PUBLISHED IN THE FEBRUARY 26 EDITION OF LEADING BOGOTA DAILY EL TIEMPO, BUT ADDRESSED TO "THE NOTABLES" -- A GROUP OF PROMINANT COLOMBIANS WHICH INCLUDES THREE EX-PRESIDENTS -- REAFFIRMS THE EXTRADITABLES' ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOTABLES JANUARY 15 PEACE PROPOSAL (REFTELS). THEY ASK THAT THE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISH AN "ADEQUATE MECHANISM" FOR THEIR SURRENDER.

3. THE EXTRADITABLE'S LETTER GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE GROUP HAS MAINTAINED A UNILATERAL CEASEFIRE WITH THE GOVERNMENT SINCE ITS JANUARY 17 ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOTABLE'S PEACE PROPOSAL. IT ADDS THAT THE NARCOS SURRENDER OF HOSTAGES, LABORATORIES, EXPLOSIVES, AND OTHER MATERIALS IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF GOOD FAITH. NOTING STATEMENTS BY THE LEADERSHIP OF GOC SECURITY FORCES THAT THE ITEMS SURRENDERED WERE OF RELATIVELY LIMITED IMPORTANCE TO THE TRAFFICKERS, THE EXTRADITABLES SAY THAT THESE SURRENDERS "CAN BE SEEN AS SYMBOLIC." THEY PROMISE, HOWEVER, TO DELIVER TO THE AUTHORITIES, "WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OVERSIGHT," ALL OF THEIR "LABORATORIES, RUNWAYS, ROCKETS ... EXPLOSIVES AND MUNITIONS" AS SOON AS THE GOVERNMENT HAS A SURRENDER MECHANISM IN PLACE.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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4. COMMENT: PABLO ESCOBAR AND THE OTHER TOP LEADERS OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL FIND THEMSELVES UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES. [REDACTED]

B7(D)

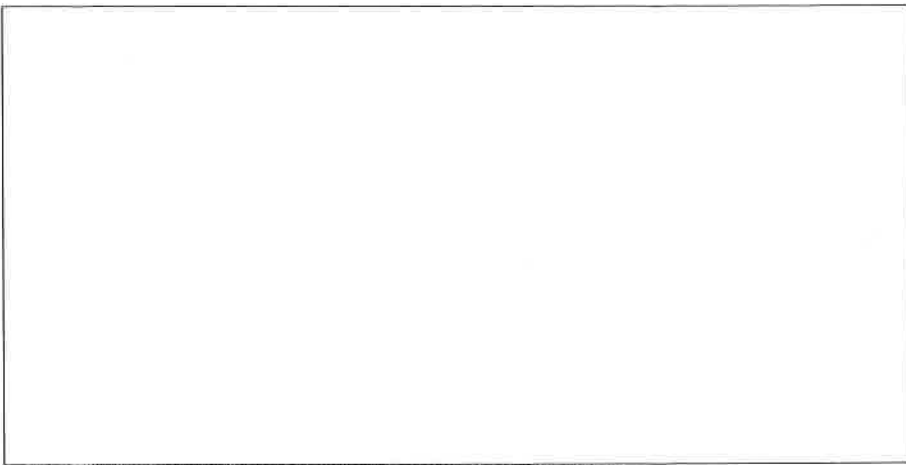
[REDACTED] IN THEIR INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE NOTABLES' PEACE PLAN THE TRAFFICKERS ONLY PROMISED TO TURN OVER THE MATERIAL RESOURCES USED IN THE NARCOTICS BUSINESS. THEY NOW SAY THEY ARE WILLING TO GIVE THEMSELVES UP. THE NARCOS DO NOT, OF COURSE, NEED THE GOVERNMENT TO CREATE A SPECIAL "MECHANISM" IN ORDER TO SURRENDER -- THEY CAN SIMPLY GIVE THEMSELVES UP TO THE SECURITY FORCES. THEY APPEAR, HOWEVER, TO BE SEEKING AN UNDERSTANDING THAT, IF THEY DO TURN THEMSELVES IN, THEY WILL NOT BE EXTRADITED TO THE U.S. THE NARCOS HAVE THE HELP OF PROFESSIONAL IMAGE MAKERS AND THIS LATEST INITIATIVE IS A CONTINUATION OF THEIR PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN.

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END OF MESSAGE

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