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26235394

TITLE: SUBJECT: NARCOS REPORTEDLY SEEK INVITATION TO
CARTAGENA SUMMIT

ORIGDATE: 199002071715

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 01925

TEXT:

TAGS: CO, SNAR, PREL

SUBJECT: NARCOS REPORTEDLY SEEK INVITATION TO
CARTAGENA SUMMIT

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA
PERS/ORG

1. FABIO OCHOA RESTREPO, PATRIARCH OF THE OCHOA NARCOTRAFFICKING CLAN, REPORTEDLY TOLD THE SPANISH NEWS AGENCY EFE ON FEBRUARY 6 THAT TOP NARCOTRAFFICKING KINGPINS SHOULD BE INVITED TO THE CARTAGENA ANTI-NARCOTICS SUMMIT. THE FEBRUARY 7 EDITION OF BOGOTA'S MORNING PAPERS CARRIED DIFFERING VERSIONS OF THE EFE REPORT, AND IT WAS NOT CLEAR IF OCHOA HAD MADE HIS PROPOSAL DIRECTLY TO A REPORTER OR BY MEANS OF A LETTER SENT TO THE NEWS AGENCY. NO OTHER NEWS ORGANIZATION REPORTED HAVING RECEIVED A COMMUNICATION FROM OCHOA.

2. ACCORDING TO EFE, OCHOA SAID THAT "THEIR WOULD BE NO SENSE TO HOLDING THE CARTAGENA SUMMIT WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF SOME OF THE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING CHIEFS... THE PRESIDENTS ARE NOT GOING TO SOLVE ANYTHING WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THOSE WHO KNOW AND CONTROL THE BUSINESS." OCHOA SAID THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF MEDELLIN CARTEL BOSS PABLO ESCOBAR "WHO HAS MADE PUBLIC HIS WILLINGNESS TO ACHIEVE PEACE" WAS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT. WHILE ADMITTING THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN ESCOBAR FOR SOME TIME, OCHOA DENIED WHAT HE SAID WERE RUMORS THAT THE DRUG KINGPIN WAS ILL OR SUFFERING FROM A SERIOUS WOUND. OCHOA SAID HE WOULD SEND A LETTER TO THE COLOMBIAN EMBASSIES OF THE SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS FORMALLY PROPOSING NARCO PARTICIPATION.

MCNAMARA

END OF MESSAGE

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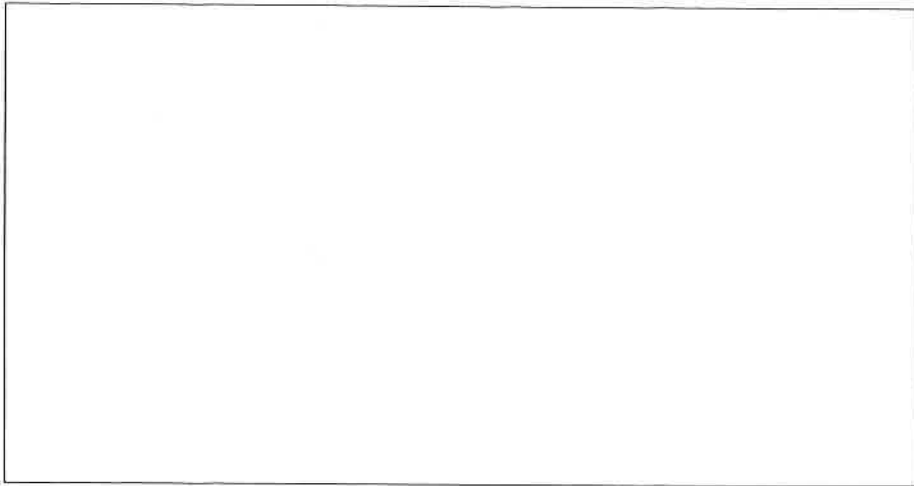
REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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<TO>TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2662</TO>

INFO RUEBWJA/DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC

RUEABND/DEA WASHDC

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