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TITLE: SUBJECT: VIEWS OF PRESIDENTIAL AIDE MONTOYA ON NARCOS,
EXTRADITION AND SECURITY

ORIGDATE: 199004100021

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 05493

TEXT:

TAGS: SNAR, CJAN, PREL, CO

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF PRESIDENTIAL AIDE MONTOYA ON NARCOS,
EXTRADITION AND SECURITY

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEST.

2. SUMMARY: CHARGE SPOKE APRIL 6 TO GERMAN MONTOYA,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY AND ACTING FOREIGN
MINISTER. MONTOYA, BARCO'S CLOSEST AIDE, WAS STOICAL
ABOUT THE DEBATE SWIRLING AROUND CONCERNING WHETHER GOC
HAD ENGAGED IN A DIALOGUE WITH THE NARCOS AND WHETHER IT
HAD CHANGED ITS POSITION ON EXTRADITION. HE EXPRESSED
FATIGUE ABOUT THE THREATS THE COUNTRY AND HE PERSONALLY
ARE RECEIVING. IN HIS TYPICALLY DIRECT AND CRYPTIC
STYLE HE WAS INSISTENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE
TO PURSUE THE TRAFFICKERS AND CONTINUE EXTRADITION.
CHARGE CALLED ATTENTION TO AMB MCNAMARA'S SPEECH AND
STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT OF SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

GOC WILL HAND OVER ESCOBAR BUT ASKS UNDERSTANDING

3. MONTOYA SAID THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS
IN EUROPE DO NOT SIGNAL ANY CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S
DETERMINATION TO RUN DOWN THE NARCO KINGPINS. HE IS
CONFIDENT THAT PABLO ESCOBAR WILL BE CAPTURED SOON. IN
AN ANSWER TO A DIRECT QUESTION, HE SAID ESCOBAR WILL THEN
BE EXTRADITED TO THE UNITED STATES. CHARGE DEMURRED
WHEN MONTOYA SAID THAT THE COUNTRY HAS COMPLETE
FLEXIBILITY HOW IT HANDLES OUR EXTRADITION REQUESTS BUT
EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING WHEN MONTOYA BEGGED FOR U.S.
PATIENCE AS HIS GOVERNMENT STRUGGLES TO MAINTAIN
POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS FIGHT IN THE
MIDST OF AN ELECTION. BOTH AGREED THAT IT IS RESULTS

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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THAT COUNT.

LET'S WATCH PRESS STATEMENTS

4. THE OBJECT OF MONTOYA'S DISDAIN WAS THE PRESS. HE LAMENTED THAT WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT SAYS "A, B, C OR NOTHING" ITS POSITION IS DISTORTED. TAKING UP THE POINT, CHARGE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TAKE CARE THAT ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON SUBJECTS LIKE SHIP BOARDINGS, OVERFLIGHTS AND EXTRADITION NOT PUSH US INTO A PUBLIC DEBATE. THE UNITED STATES IS DETERMINED TO SUPPORT THE BARCO ADMINISTRATION, AS EVIDENCED BY AMBASSADOR MCNAMARA'S SPEECH THE NIGHT BEFORE AND THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT, BUT WE CAN NOT BE MADE TO LOOK LIKE WE ARE MINDLESSLY VIOLATING COLOMBIAN TERRITORY OR ARE GIVING UP LONG HELD PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW OF THE SEA. MONTOYA TOOK THE POINT.

SOME DELAY ON EXTRADITIONS

5. RETURNING TO EXTRADITION, CHARGE SOUGHT TO PIN DOWN EXACTLY WHERE WE STOOD ON OUR CURRENT REQUESTS. AT THE TIME THE BARCO ADMINISTRATION RE-INSTITUTED EXTRADITION THERE WAS LENGTHY DISCUSSION ON BOTH SIDES WHETHER IT WAS WISER TO SUBMIT REQUESTS AND PROCESS THEM BEFORE OR AFTER THE ARREST OF THOSE WE SOUGHT. MONTOYA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD ASKED THAT WE MAKE REQUESTS FOR MOST ONLY AFTER THEY WERE CAPTURED. HE ALSO ACCEPTED THAT AT HIS DIRECTION WE HAD HANDED OVER THE EXTRADITION PAPERS OF THE MAJOR TRAFFICKERS OVER THREE MONTHS AGO. HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT ISSUED THE ARREST ORDERS FOR THE KINGPINS NOR FOR CONGRESSMAN ESCUCERIA BECAUSE IT HAD JUDGED THAT THE POLITICAL CLIMATE WAS NOT RIGHT. AGAIN, HE ASKED OUR UNDERSTANDING AND TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL CALL. HE ENDED BY SAYING "THIS TIME WILL PASS".

5. COMMENT: ALONG WITH PRESIDENT BARCO, MONTOYA HAS BEEN INSISTING THAT THERE HAS BEEN AND WILL BE NO CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT POLICY. UP TO NOW HE HAS AVOIDED SAYING

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WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO OUR MOST SENSITIVE REQUESTS. NOW THAT HE HAS STATED THE CASE CLEARLY, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW PRESIDENT BARCO'S LEAD. THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF GETTING MOST OF THOSE WE SEEK, BUT WE WILL NOT UNLESS BARCO CAN MAINTAIN SUPPORT. HE MUST MANEUVER CAREFULLY IN THE POLITICALLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE OF A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN WHICH A DESPERATE OPPOSITION IS ATTEMPTING TO DISCREDIT THE BARCO NARCOTICS POLICY TO ATTRACT VOTES. END COMMENT.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BOGOTA 05493

STATE FOR ARA, INM AND L/LEI; JUSTICE FOR ROBIN ROSS, DAAG RICHARDS, AND DREW ARENA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: SNAR, CJAN, PREL, CO

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF PRESIDENTIAL AIDE MONTOYA ON NARCOS,

SUMMIT SIDE AGREEMENTS

7. NOTING SOME PROGRESS, CHARGE GAVE MONTOYA A RUNDOWN ON WHERE WE STAND ON NEGOTIATION OF THE CARTAGENA SIDE AGREEMENTS, SAYING THAT MEETINGS ARE NOW TAKING PLACE BUT THAT THE HARD NEGOTIATIONS LIE AHEAD. MONTOYA SAID THAT FOR THE NEXT WEEK HE HEADS THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND WILL TRY TO WRAP UP THE TALKS. (COMMENT: THIS ECHOES WHAT WE WERE TOLD BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE.) CHARGE NOTED THAT THE TIEA AND KERRY AMENDMENT DRAFTS ARE ON FINANCE MINISTER ALARCON'S DESK AND HE IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY UNTIL EASTER. MONTOYA PROMISED TO PRESS.

SECURITY CONCERNS

8. FOR THE FIRST TIME WE CAN RECALL, MONTOYA WORRIED ALOUD ABOUT THE SECURITY OF HIS FAMILY. HE SHARES OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE THREAT AGAINST LIBERAL CANDIDATE CESAR GAVIRIA AND PROMISED TO HAVE DAS CHIEF CALL TO DISCUSS WAYS THAT GAVIRIA'S DETAIL MIGHT BE IMPROVED. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT MEASURES TO IMPROVE SECURITY

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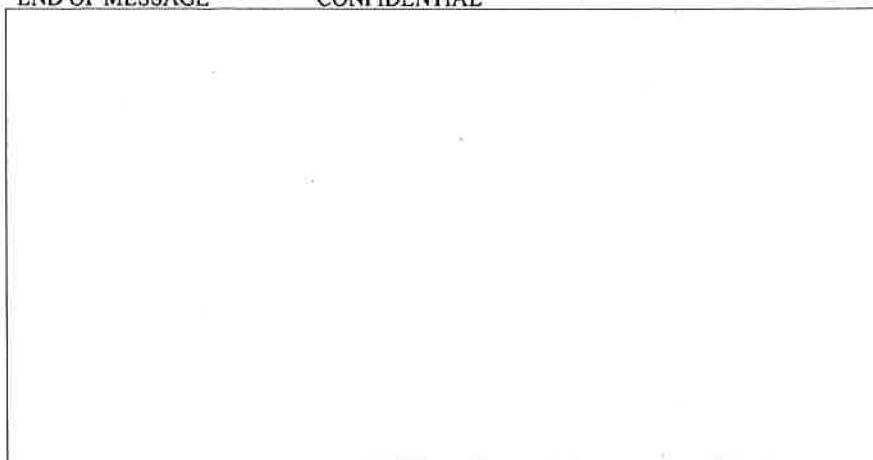
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DAAG RICHARDS, AND DREW ARENA E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

DECLASSON: MR

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<TO>TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4558</TO>

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