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TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - BARCO ON PABLO ESCOBAR AND EXTRADITION

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TEXT:

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - BARCO ON PABLO ESCOBAR AND EXTRADITION

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1. SUMMARY: LEADING DAILIES 4/5, EVENING TV NEWSCASTS 4/4 AND RADIO NEWSCASTS 4/4 AND 4/5 CARRIED EXTENSIVE REPORTS AND SOME COMMENTARIES ON PRESIDENT VIRGILIO BARCO'S REMARKS ABOUT THE EXTRADITABLES TO RCN RADIO IN STRASBOURG AND PARIS. MANY MEDIA CONCLUDED FROM PRESIDENT BARCO'S STATEMENTS THAT HE WOULD NOT EXTRADITE PABLO ESCOBAR BUT WOULD INSTEAD PUT HIM ON TRIAL IN COLOMBIA IF HE GIVES HIMSELF UP. END SUMMARY.

2. TRANSLATION OF BARCO'S REMARKS TO RCN FOLLOW:

3. (ASKED ABOUT EXTRADITION AND POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS WITH DRUG LORD PABLO ESCOBAR) "HE OFFERED AT ONE TIME AND PUBLICLY THAT HE WAS GOING TO RETURN DYNAMITE, AND HE DID; SOME HELICOPTERS, AND HE DID; SOME AIRPLANES, AND HE DID; ETC. AND HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO GIVE HIMSELF UP. EVERY TIME I HAVE BEEN ASKED, I HAVE SAID, IF MR. ESCOBAR GIVES HIMSELF UP, I GUARANTEE THAT SOME JUDGES WILL TRY HIM WITH ALL THE IMPARTIALITY IN THE WORLD. WHENEVER I HAVE BEEN ASKED, I HAVE SAID: IF THEY TURN THEMSELVES IN, AS THEY HAVE PROMISED, THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT THEY RECEIVE FAIR TREATMENT FROM THE JUSTICE SYSTEM."...REPORTER THEN ASKED IF BARCO MEANT THE COLOMBIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM. BARCO REPLIED: "WHAT DO YOU THINK, COULD IT BE ANYTHING ELSE?"

4. ALL MEDIA REPORTS WERE BASED ON THE RCN INTERVIEW. ALL 4/4 TV NEWSCASTS USED VIDEO OF PRESIDENT BARCO IN EUROPE AND THE AUDIO OF THE RCN REPORT. ALL OF THEM HAD THIS AS THEIR LEAD STORY AND INTRODUCED IT AS A SUDDEN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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DECISION BY PRESIDENT BARCO TO CHANGE HIS POSITION AND NEGOTIATE THE SURRENDER OF PABLO ESCOBAR IN EXCHANGE FOR A TRIAL IN COLOMBIA. THEY ALSO AIRED RELATED INFORMATION.

5. WEEKDAY CHANNEL TWO 7 P.M. TV NEWSCAST "NOTICIERO DE LAS 7" 4/4 BROADCAST A REPORT ON BARCO'S POSITION ON THE DRUG WAR AND EXTRADITION SINCE AUGUST 1989, WHEN HE APPROVED EXTRADITION AFTER PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL LUIS CARLOS GALAN'S ASSASSINATION. THE REPORT IMPLIES THAT THE PRESIDENT CHANGED HIS POSITION OVERNIGHT.

6. WEEKDAY CHANNEL ONE 7 P.M. TV NEWSCAST "24 HORAS" 4/4 AIRED A SIMILAR REPORT. THEY ALSO SAID THAT THE U.S. WAS ALSO CHANGING ITS ATTITUDE ABOUT EXTRADITION. THE NEWSCAST USED EXCERPTS OF A WORLDNET PROGRAM 3/2 WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE MELVYN LEVITSKY. LEVITSKY WAS CITED AS SAYING, "WE ARE COMMITTED TO COOPERATE WITH THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT IN EVERY FIELD. THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT EXTRADITION IS THE MAIN ASPECT OF THE PROGRAM...PLEASE DO NOT THINK THAT EXTRADITION IS OUR OBSESSION."

7. WEEKDAY CHANNEL TWO 9:30 P.M. TV NEWSCAST "NOTICIERO NACIONAL" AIRED, IN ADDITION TO PRESIDENT BARCO'S REMARKS, A REPORT ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF PABLO ESCOBAR TURNED HIMSELF IN. ONE JUDGE SAID THAT IF THERE IS NO EVIDENCE, THE EXTRADITABLES CANNOT BE DETAINED. A JUDGE FROM THE JUDICIAL UNION, SAID THAT IN COLOMBIA JUDGES ARE NOT COWARDS, BUT THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE PROTECTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT WHEN FACING CONSTANT THREATS BY THE NARCOS. THE REPORT ENDS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AN INVESTIGATION BY THE NEWSCAST RESULTING IN THE CONCLUSION THAT THE ONLY CHARGE STILL PENDING AGAINST DRUG LORD ESCOBAR IS HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE DECEMBER 1986 ASSASSINATION OF GUILLERMO CANO, PUBLISHER OF EL ESPECTADOR.

8. RCN AND CARACOL RADIO NETWORKS CARRIED REPORTS 4/4 AND 4/5 ON BARCO'S REMARKS. BOTH HAD CONTINUOUS REPORTS

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ON THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO EUROPE, FOCUSING ON HIS
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 BOGOTA 05260

USIA FOR P/M, P/PF, P/PFL, P/FW, P/FN, P/G, AR, VOA/BRL

STATE FOR ARA/P, ARA/AND, INM - C. SHAW

WHITEHOUSE FOR ONDCP HAMILTON

DEA HEADQUARTERS FOR CPP/FRANK SHULTS

USSOUTHCOM FOR LCDR BLACK

E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - BARCO ON PABLO ESCOBAR AND

INTERVIEW WITH RCN. CARACOL 4/5 ALSO BROADCAST A REPORT BY HOUSTON CORRESPONDENT WILLIAM RESTREPO, WHO REPORTED THAT UNIDENTIFIED WHITE HOUSE SOURCES SAID THAT THE WAR ON DRUGS WAS LOST AND THAT DRUG CZAR WILLIAM BENNETT WOULD ANNOUNCE THIS IN THE COMING DAYS. RESTREPO ALSO REPORTED THAT CONGRESSMAN CHARLES RANGEL HAD ASKED FOR BENNETT'S RESIGNATION. REPORT SAID THAT ACCORDING TO RANGEL, THE SITUATION IN THE SCHOOLS HAS WORSENERED BECAUSE STUDENTS ARE NOT ONLY CONSUMING BUT ALSO DISTRIBUTING DRUGS. THE CARACOL CORRESPONDENT ALSO SAID THAT THE DEA NEEDED "MORE INFORMATION ON PRESIDENT BARCO'S REMARKS THAT IF PABLO ESCOBAR DOES SURRENDER TO THE COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES, HE WILL NOT BE EXTRADITED. THIS MEANS, ACCORDING TO SOME PEOPLE IN DEA, THAT THE EXTRADITION TREATY IS BEING SILENCED ONCE AGAIN (VUELVE A SILENCIARSE)."

9. SECOND LEADING DAILY EL ESPECTADOR (LIBERAL) 4/5 CARRIES A COMMENTARY BY COLUMNIST JORGE CHILD ON EXTRADITION AND LEADING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CESAR GAVIRIA. BLOCK QUOTE FOLLOWS:

10. "GAVIRIA SAYS THAT HE IS NOT AN ENEMY OF EXTRADITION, BUT THAT HE WOULDN'T BE OPPOSED TO A

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DECISION BY CONGRESS, OR THE PEOPLE'S WILL, ABOUT THE TOPIC (EXTRADITION)...IN COLOMBIA (EXTRADITION) HAS BEEN HANDLED UNDER DIRECT PRESSURES AND INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEA THROUGH THE U.S. EMBASSY."

11. CONSERVATIVE DAILY LA PRENSA (OPPOSITION) 4/5 CARRIES MAIN EDITORIAL ON THE DRUG WAR, CORRUPTION AND BARCO'S REMARKS. BLOCK QUOTE FOLLOWS:

12. "(BARCO OFFERED) A JUDICIAL PROCESS WITH COLOMBIAN JUDGES TO THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS, WHICH BETWEEN THE LINES MEANS THE SUSPENSION OF EXTRADITIONS...WHAT IS REGRETTABLE ABOUT THIS IS THAT DUE TO THE LACK OF CLARITY (IN GOVERNMENT POLICY) THE COUNTRY HAS HAD TO PAY WITH IMMENSE SACRIFICES AND THE BLOOD QUOTA HAS BEEN GREAT."

13. HEADLINES IN LEADING DAILIES 4/5 FOLLOW:

14. LEADING DAILY EL TIEMPO (LIBERAL): "(CONSERVATIVE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE RODRIGO) LLOREDA ASKS THE GOVERNMENT TO WELCOME THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS' SURRENDER - ESCOBAR COULD BE TRIED IN COLOMBIA." STORY QUOTES A SOURCE IN THE PRESIDENCY AS SAYING, "IT IS VERY DIFFERENT FOR A DRUG TRAFFICKER TO BE CAPTURED AS A RESULT OF AN OPERATION OF WAR AND ANOTHER FOR THE PERSON TO GIVE HIMSELF UP VOLUNTARILY. IN THE FIRST CASE, EXTRADITION WOULD BE VALID BUT IN THE SECOND IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY." STORY REPORTS THAT THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT "DISCOUNTED THE IDEA OF ANY KIND OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA AND THE NARCOTRAFFICKERS." DEPARTMENT IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING "PRESIDENT BARCO AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE CATEGORICALLY REJECTED ANY AGREEMENT WITH DRUG TRAFFICKERS." RELATED STORIES WERE ENTITLED, "EXTRADITION IS ONLY A WEAPON OF WAR: THE GOVERNMENT." SUBHEAD: "ITS USE IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PRESIDENT." "BARCO WITH JOURNALISTS IN PARIS - EXTRADITION: 'THERE ARE CASES AND THERE ARE CASES.'"

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15. SECOND LEADING DAILY EL ESPECTADOR (LIBERAL):
"IMPARTIAL TRIALS IF THERE IS A SURRENDER: BARCO."
SUBHEAD: "THE PRESIDENT MADE THE OFFER FROM FRANCE AND
HE ASKED THE EEC TO JOIN THE ANTI-NARCOTICS STRATEGY
THAT CAME OUT OF CARTAGENA (SUMMIT)."

16. LEADING OPPOSITION DAILY EL SIGLO (CONSERVATIVE):
"DID BARCO BRING DOWN EXTRADITION?" SUBHEAD: "THE
POLICY OF OFFERING A HAND AND AT THE SAME TIME
MAINTAINING A FIRM HAND CONTINUES TO CONFUSE THE
UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 BOGOTA 05260

USIA FOR P/M, P/PF, P/PFL, P/FW, P/FN, P/G, AR, VOA/BRL

STATE FOR ARA/P, ARA/AND, INM - C. SHAW

WHITEHOUSE FOR ONDCP HAMILTON

DEA HEADQUARTERS FOR CPP/FRANK SHULTS

USSOUTHCOM FOR LCDR BLACK

E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - BARCO ON PABLO ESCOBAR AND

COUNTRY. APPARENTLY BARCO MIGHT ASK FOR TRIALS OF DRUG
TRAFFICKERS IN COLOMBIA, BUT HE WOULD CONTINUE THE WAR
IN HIS OWN WAY. THE PRESIDENCY'S SECRETARY GENERAL
MAINTAINED SILENCE."

17. CONSERVATIVE DAILY LA PRENSA (OPPOSITION) "BARCO
THE FLEXIBLE, PART XIV." SUBHEAD: "WHAT WAS DENIED IS
NOW CONFIRMED. THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS IN STRASBURG --ONCE
MORE-- IN FAVOR OF PACTS AND AGAINST EXTRADITION."
RELATED STORY WAS ENTITLED, "FIRST CONCESSION, NOT TO
EXTRADITE PABLO ESCOBAR." SUBHEAD: "PRESIDENT BARCO
PROMISES PABLO ESCOBAR A 'LESS RIGOROUS TREATMENT.' HE
GUARANTEED TO THE HEAD OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL THAT HE
WILL NOT BE EXTRADITED TO THE U.S. AND THAT HE WILL BE
TRIED IN COLOMBIA IF HE SURRENDERS TO THE NATIONAL

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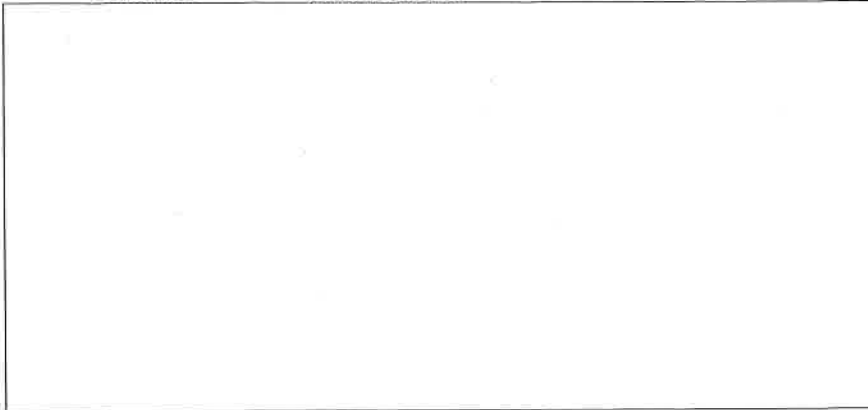
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JUSTICE SYSTEM."

18. RELATED STORY IN LEADING ECONOMIC DAILY LA
REPUBLICA (CONSERVATIVE): "(CONSERVATIVE PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATE) LLOREDA PROPOSES A PLAN FOR THE SURRENDER OF
THE EXTRADITABLES." SUBHEAD: "THE CHURCH IS AGAINST
EXTRADITION." (END).
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ARA/P, ARA/AND, INM - C. SHAW WHITEHOUSE FOR ONDCP HAMILTON DEA HEADQUARTERS FOR
CPP/FRANK SHULTS USSOUTHCOM FOR LCDR BLACK E.O. 12356: N/A
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7