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31516628

TITLE: SUBJECT: BARCO AGAIN CALLS FOR PABLO ESCOBAR TO
SURRENDER

ORIGDATE: 199004041804

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 05187

TEXT:

TAGS: SNAR, CJAN, CO

SUBJECT: BARCO AGAIN CALLS FOR PABLO ESCOBAR TO
SURRENDERRELEASED IN PART B3 CIA
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REF A) BOGOTA 3440

1. (U) DURING THE MORNING OF APRIL 4 COLOMBIAN RADIO NETWORK RCN BROADCAST REMARKS MADE BY PRESIDENT BARCO TO A FRENCH REPORTER ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SURRENDER OF NARCO KINGPIN PABLO ESCOBAR. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY THE REPORTER SUGGESTING THAT BARCO SHOULD OFFER SURRENDER CONDITIONS TO ESCOBAR AND ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NARCOS, BARCO RESPONDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT NEED TO OFFER CONDITIONS OR ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS. ESCOBAR SHOULD SIMPLY SURRENDER. REITERATING WHAT HE SAYS HAS BEEN HIS CONSISTENT PUBLIC POSITION, BARCO ADDED THAT, IF ESCOBAR SURRENDERS, "I WILL GUARANTEE THAT SOME JUDGES WILL JUDGE HIM WITH ALL THE IMPARTIALITY IN THE WORLD." WHEN PRESSED ON WHICH JUDGES HE WAS TALKING ABOUT, BARCO SEEMED TO IMPLY, BUT DID NOT EXPLICITLY STATE, THAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT COLOMBIAN JUDGES.

2. (C) COMMENT: BARCO'S REMARKS ARE BEING INTERPRETED BY SOME ELEMENTS OF THE LOCAL PRESS AS AN ASSERTION THAT ESCOBAR WILL NOT BE EXTRADITED. IN EARLY MARCH, HOWEVER, BARCO MADE A SIMILAR REFERENCE TO THE SUPPOSED CAPACITY OF COLOMBIAN JUDGES TO APPLY THE LAW TO SURRENDERING EXTRADITABLES (SEE REF A). COLOMBIAN JUDGES HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CURRENT PROCESS OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXTRADITION, BUT, IN HIS EARLIER REMARKS, BARCO ADDED THAT CRIMES SHOULD BE TRIED IN THE COUNTRY WHERE THEY ARE COMMITTED, A PHRASE WHICH HE HAS

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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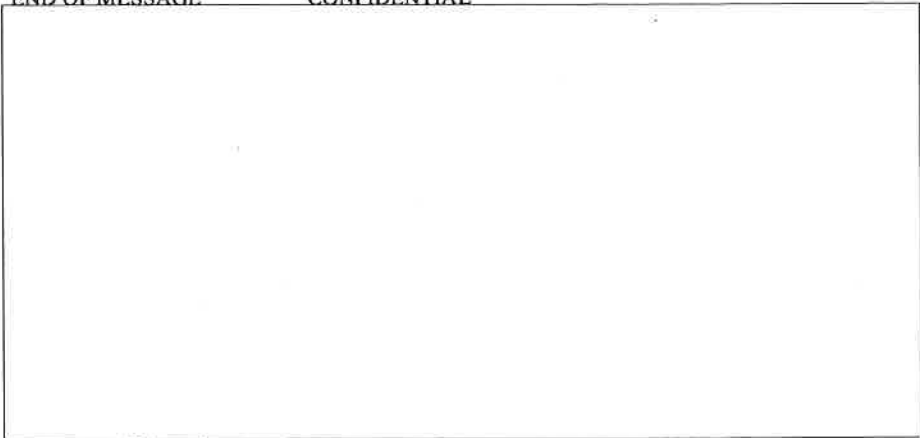
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USED TO JUSTIFY EXTRADITION. BARCO'S LATEST REMARKS MAY ALLOW ESCOBAR -- WHO MAY BE GROWING INCREASINGLY DESPERATE AFTER APPARENTLY HAVING NARROWLY ESCAPED CAPTURE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN RECENT WEEKS -- TO CONCLUDE THAT, IF HE DOES SURRENDER, HE WILL NOT BE TURNED OVER TO U.S. AUTHORITIES. BARCO'S THINKS SUCH A SURRENDER IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, AND HIS MOST RECENT COMMENTS ARE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO ALLOW THE PRESIDENT TO EXTRADITE ESCOBAR, EVEN IF HE DOES SURRENDER. MOREOVER, IF ESCOBAR DOES NOT TURN HIMSELF IN BUT IS CAPTURED BY THE AUTHORITIES, HIS EXTRADITION SEEMS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN.

MCNAMARA

END OF MESSAGE

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