

CONFIDENTIAL

133970541

TITLE: SUBJECT: POLICE DELIVER BLOW TO PABLO ESCOBAR

ORIGDATE: 198911031245

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 17219

TEXT:

TAGS: CJAN, PGOV, SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: POLICE DELIVER BLOW TO PABLO ESCOBAR

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1. CONFIDENTIAL-- ENTIRE TEXT

2. THE NATIONAL POLICE HAVE SEIZED WHAT APPEARS TO BE PABLO ESCOBAR'S OPERATIONS CENTER FOR HIS HOME DEPARTMENT OF ANTIOQUIA. POLICE SAY THAT THEY SEIZED A SUBSTANTIAL HAUL OF DOCUMENTS IN THE OCTOBER 31 RAID ON THE CENTER, HOUSED IN A BUILDING IN ENVIGADO, NEAR MEDELLIN. AMONG THE DOCUMENTS WERE THE CODE NAMES AND PAYROLL RECORDS FOR 144 ASSASSINS WHICH THE CENTER APPARENTLY CONTROLLED. POLICE BELIEVE THAT AT LEAST FIVE OF THE 144 WERE INVOLVED IN THE JANUARY 1988 KIDNAPING OF CURRENT BOGOTA MAYOR ANDRES PASTRANA AND THE THE SUBSEQUENT KIDNAP-MURDER OF ATTORNEY GENERAL CARLOS MAURO HOYOS. THE EMPLOYEES OF THE OPERATIONS CENTER APPARENTLY HAD ADVANCE WARNING OF THE RAID AND WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE SHORTLY BEFORE THE POLICE ARRIVED.

3. THE RAID WAS CARRIED OUT BY A 550 MAN FORCE OF BOGOTA BASED ELITE POLICE UNITS SENT TO THE REGION BY NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR MIGUEL ANTONIO GOMEZ PADILLA. THESE POLICE TROOPS OPERATED INDEPENDENTLY FROM MEDELLIN BASED POLICE UNITS TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF THE OPERATION BEING COMPROMISED. ADDITIONAL RAIDS BY THIS ELITE FORCE ARE SAID TO BE ONGOING.

4. COMMENT: DRUG KINGPINS PABLO ESCOBAR AND GONZALO RODRIGUEZ GACHA HAVE BEEN THE PRIME TARGETS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ONGOING OFFENSIVE AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. NEVERTHELESS, RODRIGUEZ GACHA HAS SUFFERED MUCH MORE THAN HIS MEDELLIN CARTEL COLLEAGUE. THE ENVIGADO RAID, HOWEVER, IS A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE GOVERNMENTS RESOLVE TO PURSUE ESCOBAR AS AGGRESSIVELY AS THEY HAVE RODRIGUEZ GACHA. THE CAPTURED DOCUMENTS MAY WELL LEAD TO FUTURE RAIDS, WHICH WOULD DO FURTHER DAMAGE TO ESCOBAR'S NETWORK OF TRAFFICKERS AND TERRORISTS.

MCNAMARA

END OF MESSAGE

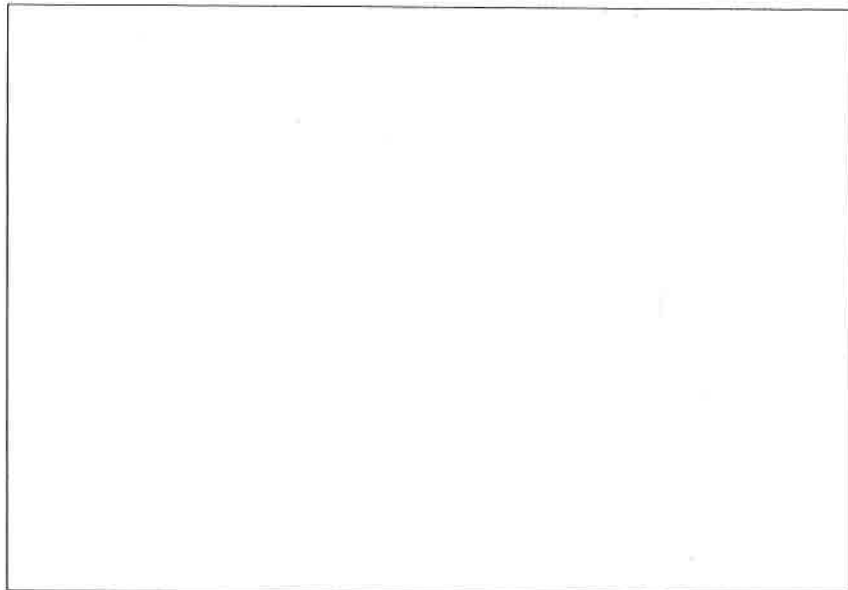
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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