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TITLE: SUBJECT: EX-MEDELLIN MAYOR OFFERS TO MEDIATE KIDNAPPINGS;

- GOC WON'T NEGOTIATE

ORIGDATE: 199011082137

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 17897

TEXT:

TAGS: SNAR, PGOV, CO

COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: EX-MEDELLIN MAYOR OFFERS TO MEDIATE KIDNAPPINGS;

- GOC WON'T NEGOTIATE

REF: A) BOGOTA 17441, B) BOGOTA 17366, C) BOGOTA 17177

- D) BOGOTA 12765

1. (C) SUMMARY: RELATIVES OF THE JOURNALISTS KIDNAPPED BY THE MEDELLIN MAFIA ASKED JUAN GOMEZ MARTINEZ, FORMER CONSERVATIVE MAYOR OF MEDELLIN, TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THE

NARCOS AND THE GOC. GOMEZ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CANDIDACY FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY (CA) HAS PABLO ESCOBAR'S ENDORSEMENT. THE GOC IS HOLDING FIRM TO ITS POSITION OF NO NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

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HOSTAGES' RELATIVES CALL FOR EX-MAYOR'S MEDIATION

2. (U) THE RELATIVES OF THE JOURNALISTS KIDNAPPED BY THE "EXTRADITABLES" (A MEDELLIN CARTEL GROUP CONTROLLED BY PABLO ESCOBAR) IN EARLY SEPTEMBER HAVE ASKED FORMER MEDELLIN MAYOR (1988-90) JUAN GOMEZ MARTINEZ TO INTERCEDE WITH THE NARCOS FOR THEIR FREEDOM. GOMEZ OFFERED TO BE A MEDIATOR IN AN OPEN LETTER PUBLISHED OCT 30.

3. (U) JUANITA SANTOS (SISTER OF ABDUCTED "EL TIEMPO" EDITOR FRANCISCO SANTOS) AND NYDIA DE BALCAZAR (EX-WIFE OF EX-PRESIDENT TURBAY AND MOTHER OF HOSTAGE DIANA TURBAY) JOINED THE APPEAL SENT THROUGH EX-PRESIDENTS MISAEL PASTRANA AND ALFONSO LOPEZ, BOTH "NOTABLES" CONTACTED BY NARCO ATTORNEY GUIDO PARRA (SEE REF B). THE TWO FORMER PRESIDENTS CALLED THE REQUEST A "NOBLE PROPOSITION."

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

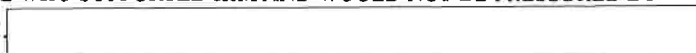
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GOMEZ HAS CARTEL'S ENDORSEMENT FOR ASSEMBLY CAMPAIGN

4. (C) AS THEIR PRINCIPAL POLITICAL SPOKESMAN, GOMEZ WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CAPOS. BEFORE HIS ELECTION AS MAYOR HE WAS FRIENDLY TO THE US AND CRITICIZED THE DRUG MAFIAS. HE AND HIS SON EVEN FOUGHT OFF A NARCO KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT IN 1987. BUT, BEGINNING BEFORE THE AUGUST 1989 CRACKDOWN AND THE BRUTAL NARCO RETALIATION THAT FOLLOWED, HE BECAME INTO A HARSH CRITIC OF EXTRADITION, US NARCOTICS AID, AND BARCO'S POLICY. HE IS NOW THE LEADING POLITICAL VOICE FAVORING APPEASEMENT OF THE MAFIAS.

5. (C) AN ESCOBAR LETTER ENDORSING GOMEZ'S CA CAMPAIGN HAS BECOME PUBLIC. GOMEZ RESPONDED THAT HE COULD NOT CONTROL WHO SUPPORTED HIM AND WOULD NOT BE PRESSURED BY ANYONE.



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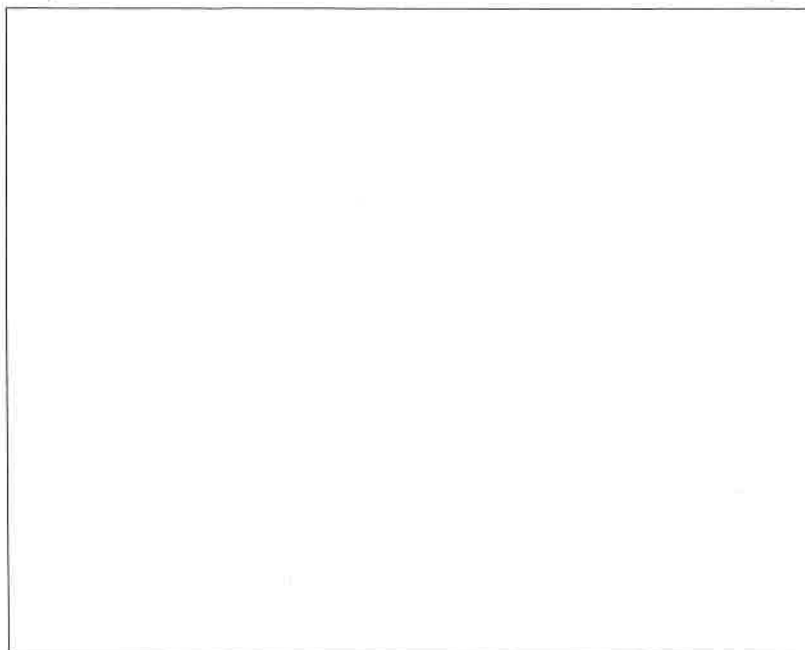
GOC WON'T NEGOTIATE

6. (C) HERNANDO SANTOS, FRANCISCO'S FATHER, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE UNDERSTANDS PRESIDENT GAVIRIA'S REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE TRAFFICKERS. THE EXTRADITABLES' VAGUE DEMANDS (REF B) ARE ALL POLITICAL; THEIR GOAL IS A FULL PARDON. GAVIRIA REPEATEDLY REJECTED THIS IN THE PAST AND SANTOS SAID HE WOULD NOT ASK THE PRESIDENT TO MODIFY HIS POSITION. SANTOS DID NOT RULE OUT PRIVATE NEGOTIATIONS BY HOSTAGE FAMILIES, SUCH AS THE APPEAL TO GOMEZ MARTINEZ.

7. (C) GAVIRIA REITERATED TO THE AMBASSADOR AND OTHERS AT A NOV 7 DINNER THAT THE GOC WILL NOT NEGOTIATE. THUS, SOME HOSTAGES MAY FALL VICTIM TO RETALIATION FOR THE GOC'S ANTI-NARCO POLICIES. ON NOV 8 FONMIN JARAMILLO TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THE GOC HAS RECEIVED NARCO SIGNALS THAT NO HOSTAGES WILL BE RELEASED UNTIL THE CA ABOLISHES EXTRADITION AND GRANTS AMNESTY. JARAMILLO HAS ALSO HEARD THAT THEY WILL WAIT TO SEE WHO GETS ELECTED TO THE CA AND THEN KIDNAP MEMBERS OF THOSE FAMILIES.

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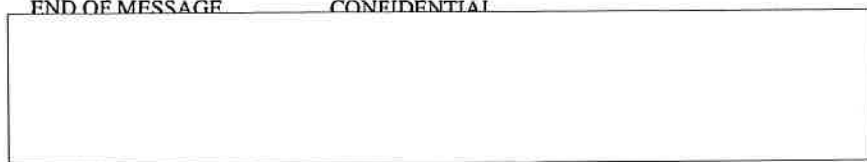
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COMMENT: GOC STANDING FIRM; CAPTIVES' FATE GRIM

10. (C) GAVIRIA DOES NOT INTEND TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE TRAFFICKERS. THIS COULD LEAD TO THE DEATH OF SOME OF THE HOSTAGES. ON THE OTHER HAND, GOMEZ MARTINEZ'S REPUTATION (AND ELECTORAL PROSPECTS) WOULD BE ENHANCED IF HIS MEDIATION IS SUCCESSFUL AND THE HOSTAGES ARE RELEASED. THIS WOULD HELP GOMEZ AND HIS PRO-NARCO ALLIES ACHIEVE A BAN ON EXTRADITIONS AND PERHAPS A PARDON FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS IN THE 1991 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. THE KILLING OF THE KIDNAPPED JOURNALISTS WOULD POISON THE ASSEMBLY ATMOSPHERE AND MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR THOSE TWO KEY NARCO GOALS TO BE REALIZED.

MCNAMARA

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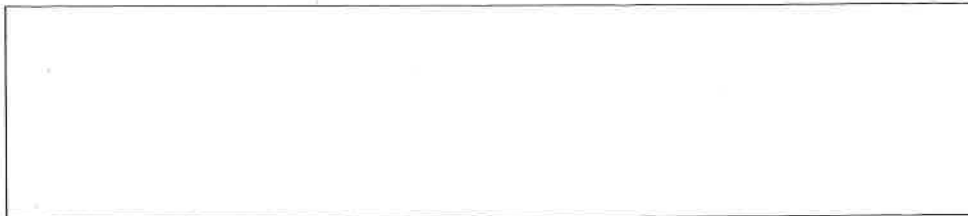


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