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TITLE: SUBJ: MORNING ITEMS FROM BOGOTA

ORIGDATE: 198908301614

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 13099

TEXT:

TAGS: PINS, PTER, PREL, ASEC, PHUM, PGOV, SNAR, CO

SUBJ: MORNING ITEMS FROM BOGOTA

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA  
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THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN ITEMS APPEARING IN THE LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO NEWSCASTS EARLY AUGUST 30:

-- GOVERNMENT HAS REJECTED ANY DIALOG WITH NARCOTRAFFICKERS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT, MADE BY ACTING MINISTER OF JUSTICE CARLOS LEMOS SIMMONS, WAS IN RESPONSE TO YESTERDAY'S LETTER FROM FAVIO OCHOA RESTREPO, FATHER OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL'S OCHOA BROTHERS.

-- MINISTER LEMOS ALSO STATED THAT COLOMBIA AND THE U.S. HAVE ENCOUNTERED A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN EXTRADITION PROCESS, NAMELY THAT COLOMBIAN LAW CONTEMPLATES EXTRADITION ONLY IN CASES IN WHICH THE MAXIMUM PENALTY WOULD BE THIRTY YEARS IMPRISONMENT OR LESS. U.S. AUTHORITIES, LEMOS RECOUNTED, ARE UNABLE TO DETERMINE OR LIMIT BEFOREHAND THE PENALTIES WHICH MIGHT BE IMPOSED IN U.S. COURTS. LEMOS MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WERE SEEKING A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

-- MINISTER OF JUSTICE MONICA DE GRIEFF REQUESTS USD 19 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF JUDGES. SHE ALSO CONFIRMED STORIES OF THREATS AGAINST HERSELF AND HER FAMILY, BUT AT THE SAME TIME DENIED RUMORS OF HER RESIGNATION.

-- SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THIS MORNING ON AN ALLEGED INTERCEPTED CONVERSATION BETWEEN MEDELLIN CARTEL LEADER PABLO ESCOBAR GAVIRIA AND AN UNIDENTIFIED PERSON PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY IN A FRENCH NEWSPAPER "LIBERATION". ESCOBAR WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID HE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior  
Reviewer

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WOULD CEDE TO THE GOVERNMENT THE NARCO PROPERTIES ALREADY CONFISCATED IN RETURN FOR THE NARCOS INTEGRATION INTO LEGAL SOCIETY. FAILING THAT, ESCOBAR PROMISED A CONTINUATION OF "TOTAL WAR" AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. ESCOBAR FURTHER SAID HIS ARMED FORCES WOULD ALLOW THE NARCOTRAFFICKERS TO HOLD OUT FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS. ESCOBAR ALLEGEDLY CONFIRMED THAT HE IS STILL IN COLOMBIA, BECAUSE HE BELIEVED HE IS SAFER HERE THAN ELSEWHERE.

-- THE NARCOTERRORIST GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE "EXTRADITABLES" BLEW UP SIX GOC-RUN LIQUOR STORES IN DOWNTOWN MEDELLIN AUGUST 29. AUTHORITIES DISMANTLED A SEVENTH EXPLOSIVE DEVICE AND ARRESTED A SUSPECT.

-- LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN MEDELLIN WERE ABLE TO FRUSTRATE AN APPARENT TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST THE STATE LIQUOR PLANT OF ANTIOQUIA. FOUR DINAMITE ROCKETS, PACKED TOGETHER WITH A SIMPLE HEAT FIRING MECHANISM, WERE THROWN INTO THE INSTALLATION BY A MAN AND WOMAN TRAVELING IN A YELLOW CAB. THE EXPLOSIVES WERE FOUND BY A NIGHT WATCHMEN AND POLICE CALLED TO DISARM THE DEVICE.

-- ELEMENTS OF THE EPL HAVE REPORTEDLY KIDNAPPED CATTLEMAN LIBARDO GUTIERREZ MARQUEZ AT A FINCA IN PALOTAL, CORDOBA DEPARTMENT. GUTIERREZ IS THE BROTHER OF FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL ALFREDO GUTIERREZ MARQUEZ. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS OBLIGED TO RESIGN HIS POST IN APRIL 1988 WHEN HIS BROTHER, LIBARDO, WAS REVEALED TO HAVE BOTH COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL LINKS TO THE MEDELLIN CARTEL.

-- THE ELN HAS REPORTEDLY KIDNAPPED A MINISTRY OF MINES OFFICIAL.

-- THE NUTIBARA BATTALION (FOURTH BRIGADE) DISMANTLED AN ELN GUERRILLA ENCAMPMENT IN SW ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT, AFTER A FIERCE ARMED ENCOUNTER AUGUST 29. THE BATTALION SEIZED A STORE OF DYNAMITE (PROBABLY DESTINED

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FOR OIL-PIPELINE SABOTAGE) AND SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA.  
ANOTHER ENCOUNTER BETWEEN THE ARMY AND THE ELN  
REPORTEDLY OCCURRED SAME DAY NEAR VALLEDUPAR, CESAR  
DEPARTMENT IN THE NORTH. THE ARMY TROOPS ALSO MANAGED  
TO ROUT THE ELN COLUMN IN THIS ENCOUNTER.

-- THE SIMON BOLIVAR GUERRILLA COORDINATOR (CGSB), THE  
UMBRELLA GROUP HEADED BY THE SOVIET-LINE FARC  
GUERRILLAS, ACCEPTED AUGUST 29 TO ENGAGE IN DIRECT  
DIALOGUE WITH THE GOC UNDER THE CONDITIONS SET DOWN BY

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BOGOTA 13099

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PTER, PREL, ASEC, PHUM, PGOV, SNAR, CO

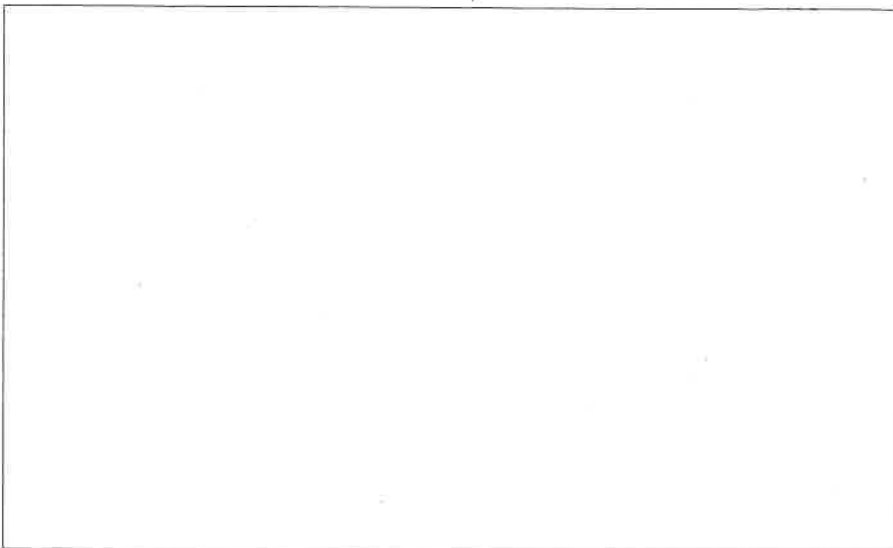
SUBJ: MORNING ITEMS FROM BOGOTA

THE LATTER. THE GOC WILL SOON ANNOUNCE ITS PLANS FOR  
ITS FIRST ROUND OF OFFICIAL PEACE TALKS WITH THE CGSB.  
MCNAMARA

END OF MESSAGE

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TOR: 301625Z AUG 89 BOGOTA 13099

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