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SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS IN BOGOTA

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN ITEMS APPEARING IN THE LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO NEWSCASTS EARLY AUGUST 29:

-- IN AN OPERATION TO SEIZE ASSETS DERIVED FROM NARCOTRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES, ARMY UNITS OCCUPIED BUSINESSES BELONGING TO LIBERAL CONGRESSMAN HERNANDO SUAREZ BURGOS IN PASTO (NARINO DEPT. IN SOUTH) ON AUGUST 28. THE CONGRESSMAN HAD CONTACTS WITH THIS EMBASSY AND WAS NOT SUSPECTED OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

-- PRESIDENT VIRGILIO BARCO HAS RECALLED TO BOGOTA FOR CONSULTATIONS THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO PANAMA, JAIME HERNANDEZ LOPEZ. OTHER SEVEN LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO WITHDRAWN THEIR AMBASSADORS.

-- STRIKING A SOUR NOTE AMID CALLS OF SUPPORT FOR THE GOC, MEDELLIN MAYOR JUAN GOMEZ MARTINEZ CRITICIZED PRESIDENT BARCO FOR DECLARING WAR ON NARCOS AND "LEAVING MEDELLIN DEFENSELESS." NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ACCUSED GOMEZ OF COWARDICE WHEN MINUTES AFTER SENATOR GALAN'S ASSASSINATION HE WENT BEFORE THE T.V. CAMERAS TO SUGGEST THAT THE GOC ENGAGE IN "DIALOGUE" WITH THE NARCO CARTELS. PRIOR TO BECOMING MAYOR OF MEDELLIN, MARTINEZ, WHO IS OWNER OF THE NEWSPAPER "EL COLOMBIANO," WAS THE VICTIM OF SEVERAL BOMBING ATTACKS AND ONE ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP HIM BECAUSE OF HIS ANTI-NARCO STANCE. AFTER THOSE INCIDENTS HE BEGAN FAVORING AN APPEASEMENT POLICY TOWARD THE NARCOS.

-- FABIO OCHOA, THE FATHER OF THE OCHOA NARCO CLAN, HAS SENT A RAMBLING LETTER TO PRESIDENT BARCO REQUESTING

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior  
Reviewer

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DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GOC AND THE NARCOS. OCHOA PRAISED GOMEZ MARTINEZ'S CALL FOR DIALOGUE.

-- TENTH BRIGADE UNITS CAPTURED ABRAHAM MAJUA HERNANDEZ, SUSPECTED OF FRONTING FOR THE OCHOAS AND FOR PABLO ESCOBAR GAVIRIA, IN MONTERIA (CORDOBA DEPT IN NORTH) ON AUGUST 28. HE REPORTEDLY HAS OFFERED TO INFORM ON HIS ASSOCIATES.

-- "UNKNOWN GUNMEN" KILLED A 75 YEAR-OLD PRIEST, JULIO PALACIO LOPERA, NEAR PEREIRA (CENTRAL DEPT OF RISARALDA). THE PRIEST HAD FREQUENTLY SPOKEN AGAINST MURDEROUS "CLEAN UP" OPERATIONS BY VIGILANTE GROUPS SEEKING TO RID THE AREA OF "UNDESIRABLES."

-- APPROXIMATELY SEVEN KILOS OF DYNAMITE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THROWN FROM A CAR EXPLODED IN FRONT OF A BUILDING IN THE NORTH OF BOGOTA (CALLE 100 AND CARRERA 11) THAT CONTAINS THE OFFICES OF SEVERAL TRAVEL AGENCIES. THERE WERE NO DEATHS OR INJURIES. THE AGENCY MOST DAMAGED WAS CORVIAJES. IN THE SAME BUILDING IS JET TOURS, OWNED BY PERSON WHO WAS KIDNAPPED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND IS STILL BEING HELD AWAITING RANSOM PAYMENT. THE POLICE BELIEVE THAT THE BOMBING WAS RELATED TO THE KIDNAPPING.

-- THE FIRST MEETING OF THE GOC'S "ANTI-PARAMILITARY COMMISSION" WILL TAKE PLACE AUGUST 29 IN BOGOTA. THE COMMISSION IS THE RESULT OF AN AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE GOC AND THE PATRIOTIC UNION (UP) PARTY LAST MONTH. THE GOC PROMISED TO SET UP THE COMMISSION AFTER UP LEADERS PEACEFULLY INVADED THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT IN PROTEST OVER THE KILLING OF THE UP'S LEGAL COUNSELOR. MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE DIRECTOR OF THE DAS (FBI EQUIVALENT), THE MINISTERS OF JUSTICE AND DEFENSE, AND THE NATIONAL POLICE COMMANDER. THE UP EXPECTS THE COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE VIGILANTE GROUPS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS.  
MCNAMARA

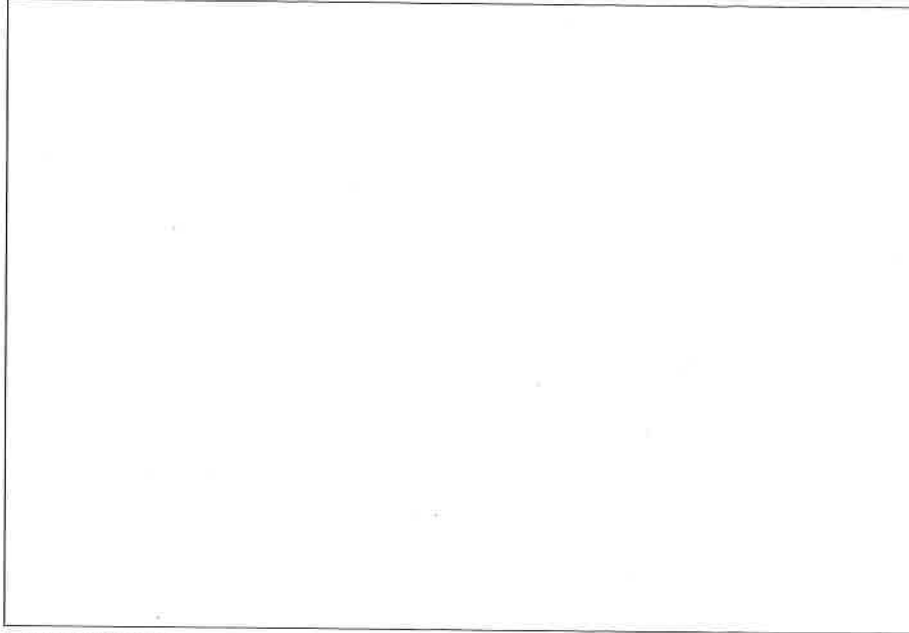
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