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42622837

TITLE: SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH ENRIQUE PAREJO

ORIGDATE: 199110222050

SOURCE: STATE

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TEXT:

TAGS: KJUS, PGOV, CO, SNAR

COMBINE: COMPLETE

RELEASED IN PART 25X1,B1,B3 CIA  
PERS/ORG,B6

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH ENRIQUE PAREJO

REFTELS: A) BOGOTA 9577 B) BOGOTA 9741 C) BOGOTA 10282

D) BOGOTA 14408

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: ENRIQUE PAREJO, EX-JUSTICE MINISTER AND ARCHENEMY OF COLOMBIAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS, TOLD EMBOFFS OCTOBER 17 THAT HE BELIEVES PABLO ESCOBAR WILL RECEIVE A RELATIVELY LIGHT SENTENCE FOR HIS MYRIAD CRIMES, NO MORE THAN EIGHT YEARS. HE ALSO PREDICTED THAT ESCOBAR WILL SEEK ADDITIONAL SENTENCE REDUCTIONS BY BRIBING MEMBERS OF THE NEW CONGRESS, A JOB HE STARTED IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. PAREJO DOUBTS THAT CREATION OF AN ACCUSATORY SYSTEM OF JUSTICE IS THE ANSWER TO COLOMBIA'S PRAYERS. WHAT IS NEEDED MORE THAN NEW INSTITUTIONS, HE SAID, IS ADHERENCE TO THE RULE OF LAW.

3. PAREJO SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO STAY IN THE COUNTRY AND BECOME INVOLVED IN POLITICS. HE REALIZES, HOWEVER, THAT SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS MAY REQUIRE THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY LEAVE COLOMBIA TEMPORARILY. EMBOFFS REPEATED PAST OFFERS OF U.S. ASSISTANCE IF HE DECIDES ON THE LATTER COURSE (REFTELS C AND D). END SUMMARY.

PAREJO RETURNS TO COLOMBIA

4. PAREJO RETURNED TO COLOMBIA LAST MONTH AFTER RESIGNING AS AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND OVER GAVIRIA'S NARCO POLICIES (REFTELS A AND B). AREP AND POLOFF

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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Classification Extended on : 08/12/2014 ~  
Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 25X1

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VISITED PAREJO IN HIS SON'S SMALL, ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT

B6

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] THE APARTMENT BUILDING IN NORTH BOGOTA IS SURROUNDED BY GOVERNMENT-PROVIDED SECURITY PERSONNEL. PAREJO SAID THAT HE IS VERY PLEASED WITH HIS PROTECTION, WHICH INCLUDES A HEAVILY ARMORED CAR THAT ONCE BELONGED TO FORMER DAS CHIEF MIGUEL MAZA. HE IS NOT SURE, HOWEVER, HOW LONG THE PROTECTION WILL LAST.

ESCOBAR STILL PULLING STRINGS

5. ASKED ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN COLOMBIA, PAREJO SAID THAT HE IS SURE ESCOBAR WILL RECEIVE A LIGHT SENTENCE FOR HIS HORRENDOUS CRIMES. WHY SHOULD A MAN WHO CAN BRIBE HIS WAY OUT OF JAIL SPEND 15 OF THE BEST YEARS OF HIS LIFE IN PRISON, HE ASKED? HE SAID THAT ESCOBAR'S NEXT TARGET FOR SUBORNING WILL BE THE NEW CONGRESS. [REDACTED]

25X1  
B1

[REDACTED] THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WAS FILLED WITH ESCOBAR-BOUGHT DELEGATES. HE IS ESPECIALLY INDIGNANT THAT THE FAMOUS NARCO VIDEO IN WHICH AN ESCOBAR AGENT TRIED TO BRIBE A CA MEMBER HAS NOT RESULTED IN PROSECUTIONS. WHY BOTHER CARRYING OUT SUCH OPERATIONS IF THEY DON'T RESULT IN CHARGES, HE ASKED? HE HAS WRITTEN A PUBLIC LETTER TO THE PROCURADOR (ATTORNEY GENERAL) CALLING FOR FOR AN EXPLANATION. HE ALSO ASKED EMBASSY TO ASK DEA TO PROVIDE HIM A COPY OF THE TAPE. (NOTE: EMBASSY WILL NOT PROVIDE PAREJO A COPY.)

6. PAREJO SAID THAT FROM A PHILOSOPHICAL STANDPOINT HE OPPOSED EXTRADITION. AS A NATIONALIST, HE WOULD PREFER THAT COLOMBIANS BE TRIED IN COLOMBIA. HOWEVER, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, EXTRADITION WAS THE ONLY WAY TO ASSURE JUSTICE. THOSE WHO OPPOSED EXTRADITION (IN THE CA AND ELSEWHERE) FAILED TO REALIZE THAT IN THE END IT REPRESENTED A CHANCE TO STRENGTHEN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM, NOT WEAKEN IT.

7. TO ILLUSTRATE THE LENGTHS TO WHICH ESCOBAR WILL GO

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TO GET HIS WAY, PAREJO RECOUNTED A STORY TOLD TO HIM BY THE LATE SENATOR FREDERICO ESTRADA VELEZ, WHO WAS KILLED BY NARCO GUMEN IN MEDELLIN IN THE SPRING OF 1990.

ESTRADA, A MEMBER OF THE SENATE'S FIRST COMMISSION, WHICH DEALT WITH EXTRADITION AT THAT TIME, WAS SUMMONED

BY ESCOBAR TO HIS HIDING PLACE. ESCOBAR PROCEEDED TO PUT A CHECKBOOK IN FRONT OF ESTRADA AND TOLD HIM TO NAME HIS PRICE IN RETURN FOR VOTING DOWN EXTRADITION. WHEN ESTRADA, FORTIFIED BY A DOUBLE WHISKY, REFUSED, ESCOBAR TOLD HIM THAT HE WAS NOT CONCERNED SINCE HE HAD ALREADY BOUGHT ENOUGH VOTES ON THE COMMISSION TO INSURE SUCCESS. PAREJO SAID THE MEASURE FAILED TO PASS ONLY BECAUSE PRESIDENT BARCO AND HIS GOVERNMENT MINISTER, CARLOS LEMOS SIMMONDS, SUCCESSFULLY STOPPED IT.

8. PAREJO SAID THAT ESTRADA'S STORY PROVES THAT ESCOBAR WAS NOT LIVING "ON THE RUN" OR CLANDESTINELY. THE FACT THAT ESTRADA (AND LATER FATHER GARCIA HERREROS AND ALBERTO VILLAMIZAR) COULD VISIT ESCOBAR WAS PROOF THAT HE WAS RECEIVING POLICE AND ARMY PROTECTION. PAREJO SAID THAT WHILE THERE ARE MANY HONEST POLICEMEN AND SOLDIERS, MANY ARE ON THE TAKE. POLITICIANS, HE SAID, ARE ALSO SUSCEPTIBLE TO ESCOBAR'S THREATS AND BLANDISHMENTS. GALANISTAS (PAREJO INCLUDED) WERE THE ONLY ONES TO THOROUGHLY REJECT DRUG MONEY.

9. PAREJO ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER U.S.-COLOMBIAN EVIDENCE SHARING IN THE ESCOBAR CASE. HIS SOURCES (WHOM HE DID NOT REVEAL) HAVE TOLD HIM THAT THE U.S. HAS NOT PROVIDED ANY EVIDENCE TO DATE. EMBOFFS SAID THEY WOULD PASS ALONG THESE CONCERNS TO OFFICIALS WORKING IN THIS AREA.

NOT A FAN OF GAVIRIA'S POLICIES

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10. PAREJO HAS SAID PUBLICLY THAT GAVIRIA'S POLITICAL AND JUDICIAL CHANGES ARE COSMETIC AND WILL NOT RESULT IN THE KIND OF SEA CHANGE COLOMBIA REALLY NEEDS. HE EXPECTS THE NEW CONGRESS WILL BE MADE UP OF THE SAME

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"POLITICAL CLASS" THAT INHABITED THE OLD ONE. THE NEW CONSTITUTION IS NO BETTER THAN THE OLD ONE. JUDICIAL CHANGES LEADING TO AN ACCUSATORY SYSTEM ARE FRUITLESS WITHOUT CORRESPONDING CHANGES IN PUBLIC ATTITUDES. HE DOES, HOWEVER, SUPPORT EFFORTS TO BETTER TRAIN AND EDUCATE JUDGES AND OTHER COURT PERSONNEL.

11. PAREJO WAS PARTICULARLY BITTER ABOUT THE EX-GUERRILLA GROUP M-19. HE SAID THAT NAVARRO AND HIS FOLLOWERS RECEIVED AN AMNESTY AFTER COMMITTING THE WORST CRIMES, ESPECIALLY THE TAKING OF THE PALACE OF JUSTICE. HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE GROUP WAS AND STILL IS IN THE PAY OF THE NARCOS.

WHAT NEXT

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12. PAREJO SAID THAT WHILE HE WOULD LIKE TO STAY IN COLOMBIA AND BECOME INVOLVED IN POLITICS, HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY HAVE SUGGESTED THAT, FOR HIS SECURITY, HE SPEND SOME TIME ABROAD. HE SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER OFFERS FROM UNIVERSITIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. EMBOFFS REPEATED PAST OFFERS OF U.S. ASSISTANCE SHOULD HE DECIDE THAT HE MUST LEAVE THE COUNTRY. HE APPRECIATED THE OFFER.

COMMENT

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13. [REDACTED]

B6

[REDACTED] DURING THE VISIT WE MADE CLEAR THAT IF HE DECIDED IT WAS BEST TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, WE STOOD READY TO HELP. FOR THE MOMENT, HE SEEMS WELL PROTECTED.

14. PAREJO LEFT LITTLE DOUBT THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO CRITICIZE THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY FOR WHAT HE SEES AS ITS WEAK STANCE AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKERS. GIVEN PAREJO'S PRESTIGE AS A FORMER AMBASSADOR AND JUSTICE MINISTER, PLUS HIS REPUTATION FOR HONESTY AND

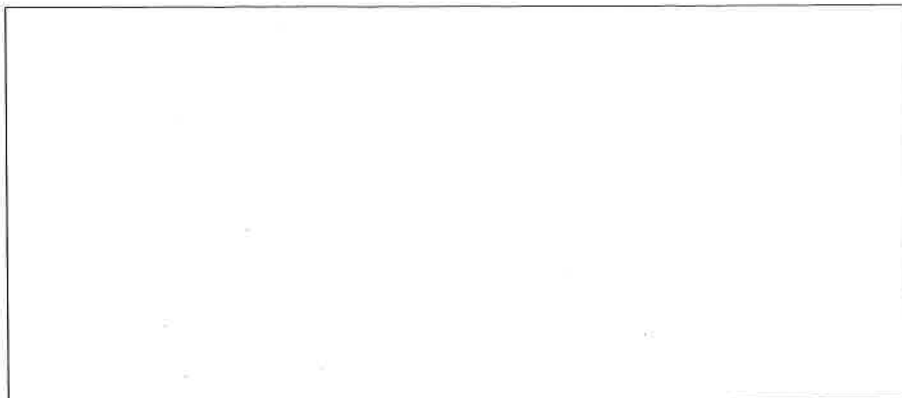
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BRAVERY, HE IS SURE TO BE A THORN IN THE SIDE OF THE  
GAVIRIA ADMINISTRATION. BUSBY

B3 CIA PERS/ORG

END OF MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL



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TOR: 222040Z OCT 91 BOGOTA 16384  
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CONTROLS: C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 16384 STATE PLEASE PASS TO AID FOR AA/LAC, LAC/DI JUSTICE  
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INFO RUEBWJA/DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC  
RUEHNA/DEA WASHDC  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0313  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 0098  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 1067  
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TO: TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9604  
TOR: 172102  
XREFS: REFTELS: A) BOGOTA 9577 B) BOGOTA 9741 C) BOGOTA 10282  
D) BOGOTA 14408

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