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TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION--THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON
DRUG TRAFFICKING

ORIGDATE: 199404061932

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 05238

TEXT:

TAGS: OPRC, KJUS, SNAR, SOCI, ASEC, PGOV, PREL, US, CO

COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION--THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON
DRUG TRAFFICKING

1. AN APRIL 4 EVENING TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAM AND THREE
APRIL 5 MORNING DAILY PAPERS CARRIED STORIES, BASED ON
WIRE SERVICE REPORTS, ABOUT THE NEWLY RELEASED STATE
DEPARTMENT REPORT ON DRUG TRAFFICKING. THE NEWSPAPER
STORIES HIGHLIGHTED COLOMBIA'S EFFORTS AGAINST DRUG
TRAFFICKERS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE LOCAL JUSTICE
SYSTEM IS WEAK AND STILL SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE INFLUENCE
EXERTED BY THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS. THE TELEVISION NEWS
PROGRAM EMPHASIZED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT HAD
CONGRATULATED COLOMBIA FOR ITS SUCCESS IN TRACKING DOWN
DRUG LORD PABLO ESCOBAR.

2. FOLLOWING ARE THE HEADLINE TREATMENT AND A SELECTED
QUOTE:

A. RULING LIBERAL PARTY ORIENTED SECOND LEADING DAILY
"EL ESPECTADOR" CARRIED A STORY BASED ON RELEASES FROM
REUTERS, DPA, AND EFE WIRE SERVICES WHICH HIGHLIGHTED THE
POSITIVE ASPECTS OF COLOMBIA'S EFFORTS IN THE FIGHT
AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING:

HEADLINE--"COCAINE AND CORRUPTION, WORLDWIDE PARASITES."

SUBHEADLINE--"THE UNITED STATES IS SANCTIONING FOUR
COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NOT FOUGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING.
APPLAUSE FOR COLOMBIA."

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Adolph Eisner, Senior
Reviewer

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B. OPPOSITION CONSERVATIVE TABLOID "LA PRENSA" HAD A STORY BASED ON AN EFE PRESS RELEASE THAT EMPHASIZED THE CRITICAL COMMENTS THE REPORT HAD ABOUT COLOMBIA:

FRONT PAGE:

SUBHEADLINE--"THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS MANIPULATE THE COLOMBIAN JUSTICE SYSTEM THROUGH BRIBERY AND INTIMIDATION,' WAS AN ACCUSATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REPORT. THE REPORT SAID THAT CORRUPTION TAKES IN THE JUDICIAL ENTITIES, THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL, THE POLICE, AND THE ARMED FORCES."

HEADLINE--"WATER WETS (AN ALLUSION TO CORRUPTION)"

C. LIKEWISE, OPPOSITION CONSERVATIVE TABLOID "EL NUEVO SIGLO," WHICH USED THE EFE RELEASE AS THE BASIS OF ITS STORY, HIGHLIGHTED THE REPORT'S COMMENTS ABOUT COLOMBIA'S FRAILTIES IN THE DRUG FIGHT, BUT ALSO MENTIONED THE COUNTRY'S SUCCESSES:

SUBHEADLINE--"ACCORDING TO A-DRUG REPORT IN THE UNITED STATES"

HEADLINE--"COLOMBIAN JUSTICE IS WEAK IN THE FACE OF DRUG TRAFFICKING."

SUBHEADLINE--"THE REPORT PRAISED COLOMBIA'S EFFORTS AGAINST 'MONEY LAUNDERING,' BUT AFFIRMED THAT CORRUPTION HAS IMPIDED THE EFFICIENT FIGHT AGIANST THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS."

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RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8662</TO>

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