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35463633

TITLE: SUBJECT: JUNE 2 ECUADOR MEDIA REACTION:
ECUADOR'S OPERATION "PLATA" AGAINST DRUG
TRAFFICKING.

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA

ORIGDATE: 199306031646

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: QUITO 04473

TEXT:

TAGS: OPRC, SNAR, ASEC, PGOV, SOCI, PREL, OPDC,
US, EC, CO

SUBJECT: JUNE 2 ECUADOR MEDIA REACTION:
ECUADOR'S OPERATION "PLATA" AGAINST DRUG
TRAFFICKING.

1. SUMMARY: THE EDITORIAL IN THE JUNE 2
EDITION OF QUITO'S LEADING NEWSPAPER "EL
COMERCIO" (CENTER-RIGHT, CIRC. 97,500) COMMENTS
ON THE ECUADORIAN NATIONAL POLICE OPERATION
"PLATA" WHICH ENABLED ECUADORIAN POLICE TO BREAK
AN INTERNATIONAL DRUG RING OPERATING IN THE
COUNTRY, SUPPOSEDLY UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF
COLOMBIA'S KINGPIN PABLO ESCOBAR. IT ALSO
HIGHLIGHTS THE FACT THAT ECUADOR HAS TO FIGHT
HARD TO AVOID BEING SUCKED INTO INTERNATIONAL
DRUG TRAFFICKING. HEADLINE AND BLOCK QUOTES
FOLLOW:

2. HEADLINE: "OPERATION 'PLATA'"

QUOTE: "VARIOUS YEARS AGO, ECUADOR STOPPED
BEING THE IMPERTURBABLE COUNTRY FOR THE TRANSIT
OF DRUGS TO THE BIG DISTRIBUTION AND CONSUMPTION
MARKETS. THANKS TO THE FACILITIES IT OFFERED,
IT BECAME A SHIPPING POINT AND EVEN A PRODUCTION
POINT. HERE, INTERNATIONAL GROUPS OPERATING IN
THE (ILLEGAL) DRUG BUSINESS HAVE ESTABLISHED AND
MAINTAIN CONNECTIONS WITH THE BIG CARTELS THAT
CONTROL DRUG TRAFFICKING, ESPECIALLY THE
MEDELLIN CARTEL, MANAGED BY THE FAMOUS PABLO
ESCOBAR GAVIRIA.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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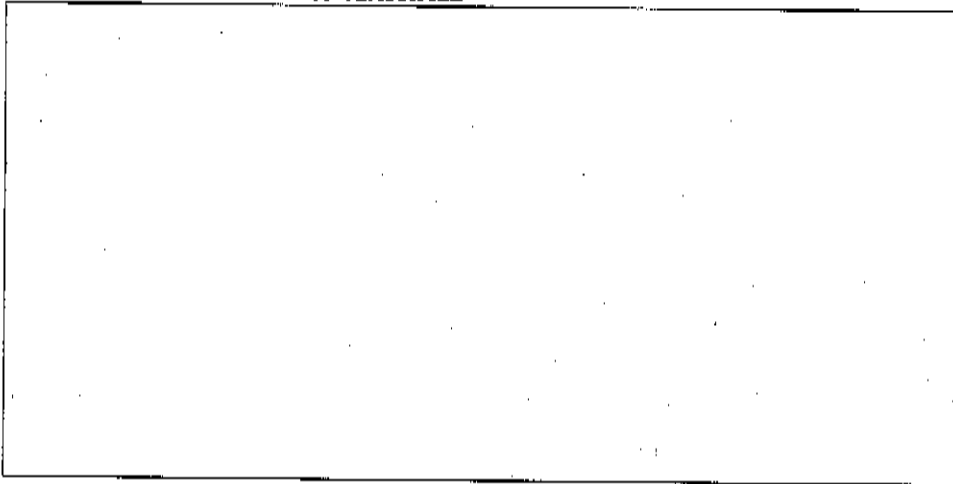
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"DURING THE RECENT OPERATION PLATA, THE NATIONAL POLICE WAS ABLE TO CAPTURE AN ORGANIZATION OF MORE THAN 80 INDIVIDUALS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES.

"...IT IS VITAL TO LAUNCH A STRONG FIGHT TO PREVENT OUR COUNTRY FROM ENTERING THE STRUCTURE OF THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE, WHICH WILL TARNISH OUR GOOD NAME AND POSE SERIOUS DANGERS TO OUR PEOPLE."

BURTON

END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED



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