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TITLE: SUBJECT: CIVIL POLICE INQUIRY ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT

- PABLO ESCOBAR SOUGHT REFUGE IN RIO DE JANEIRO
- STATE

ORIGDATE: 199310281311

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: RIO DE JANEIRO 04639

TEXT:

TAGS: SNAR, PGOV, BR, ASEC

COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: CIVIL POLICE INQUIRY ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT

- PABLO ESCOBAR SOUGHT REFUGE IN RIO DE JANEIRO
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1. SUMMARY. RIO STATE CIVIL POLICE HAVE SENT A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE CONSULATE FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON COLOMBIAN FUGITIVE PABLO ESCOBAR. A PREVIOUS INFORMAL REQUEST TO DETERMINE IF ESCOBAR HAS BEEN IN RIO STATE WAS RESEARCHED WITH DEA BRASILIA AND A RESPONSE THAT THE USG CAN NOT CONFIRM THE WHEREABOUTS OF ESCOBAR WAS GIVEN. THE DETAILS OF THE REQUEST AND BACKGROUND FOLLOW. SEE PARAGRAPH 8 FOR AN ACTION REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

2. THE RIO DE JANEIRO STATE CIVIL POLICE HAVE UNDERTAKEN AN INQUIRY TO DETERMINE THE FACTS OF AN ALLEGATION THAT PABLO ESCOBAR WAS IN THE CABO FRIO AREA OF RIO STATE AT THE END OF 1992 OR EARLY IN 1993 AND THAT HE PAID USD 10 MILLION TO A SENIOR CIVIL POLICE OFFICIAL. THE PROMINANT ACCUSED OFFICIAL IN THE EXTORTION INQUIRY IS THE FORMER CIVIL POLICE CHIEF OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS, DELEGADO ELSON CAMPELLO. CAMPELLO WAS DEMOTED FROM THE SENIOR COMMAND POSITION TO A PRECINCT SUPERVISOR POSITION IN APRIL 1993 UNDER PRESSURE OF CORRUPTION ACCUSATIONS, THEN QUICKLY RETURNED TO THE SENIOR RANKS AS AN ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CIVIL POLICE, VICE GOVERNOR NILO BATISTA. AS A RESULT OF THE ESCOBAR EXTORTION ACCUSATION, THE VICE GOVERNOR SACKED CAMPELLO AGAIN IN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior  
Reviewer

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SEPTEMBER. AN INQUIRY WAS ASSIGNED TO THE CORREGEDOR (INTERNAL AFFAIRS) CHIEF OF THE CIVIL POLICE, DELEGADO ALVARO PINTO E SOUZA TO DETERMINE THE FACTS OF THE ESCOBAR MATTER.

3. SOON AFTER THE INVESTIGATION BEGAN, DELEGADO ALVARO ASKED THE CONSULATE TO INQUIRE WHETHER THE DEA HAD SUBSTANTIATION OF ESCOBAR BEING IN RIO STATE. A NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM THE BRASILIA DEA OFFICE WAS PASSED TO THE CIVIL POLICE, ALONG WITH A REQUEST THAT DELEGADO ALVARO NOT PUBLICIZE HIS REQUESTS TO THE USG.

4. THE MONTEVIDEO LEGATT WAS ADVISED OF THE CIVIL POLICE REQUEST AND ALSO HAD A NEGATIVE RESPONSE, WHICH WAS DELIVERED PERSONALLY TO DELEGADO ALVARO DURING A VISIT TO RIO BY THE ASSISTANT LEGATT 10/19-21. THE ASSISTANT LEGATT OFFERED TO PROVIDE GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ESCOBAR, WHEN OBTAINED FROM HEADQUARTERS. LAST WEEK A REQUEST FOR DETAILED BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ESCOBAR WAS RECEIVED BY THE CONSULATE RSO AND SHOWN TO THE ASSISTANT LEGATT, WHO RESPONDED THAT TO A GREAT EXTENT THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION REQUESTED ON ESCOBAR MAY BE ANSWERED IN THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL BACKGROUND REPORT.

5. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE CIVIL POLICE INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE, SIGNED BY DELEGADO GERSON FILGUEIRAS AND CONVEYED TO THE CONSULATE BY FAX AS POLICE INQUIRY 123/93.

QUOTE:

IN ORDER TO HELP THE INQUIRY IN WRITING, I SOLICIT YOUR COLLABORATION IN URGING THE U.S. FEDERAL ELEMENTS (FBI AND DEA) TO PROVIDE CLARIFICATIONS ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKER PABLO ESCOBAR, HIS APPEARANCE AND IN PARTICULAR THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. COULD PABLO ESCOBAR HAVE BEEN IN BRAZIL IN THE

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PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS OR ANY OTHER DATE, PRINCIPALLY IN THE STATE OF RIO DE JANEIRO? (IF POSSIBLE AND IN A POSITIVE CASE, I REQUEST DETAILED INFORMATION).

2. HAVE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SO-CALLED MEDELLIN CARTEL BEEN IN BRAZIL, PRINCIPALLY IN THE STATE OF RIO DE JANEIRO, AND IF SO, IN WHICH LOCALES?

3. WHAT OTHER NAMES AND IDENTITIES HAVE BEEN USED BY PABLO ESCOBAR?

4. WHAT NAMES AND CODE NAMES HAVE BEEN USED BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CARTEL? (PLEASE LIMIT THE RESPONSE TO THOSE USED BY MEMBERS WHO HAVE VISITED BRAZIL, AND PRINCIPALLY IN THE RIO DE JANEIRO STATE CITIES: ANGRA DOS REIS, PARATY AND CABO FRIO).

5. HAS PABLO ESCOBAR RECAPTURED AFTER FLEEING THE ENVIGADO PRISON IN COLOMBIA? DID HE FLEE FROM THE PRISON ON JULY 6, 1992?

6. DID THE ATTORNEY FRANK LINO DIAS A U.S. CITIZEN HELD BY THE FEDERAL POLICE AND UNDER PROCESS FOR EXTRADITION TO THE U.S. HAVE CONNECTIONS WITH ESCOBAR? IF SO, WHAT CONNECTIONS ARE STILL MAINTAINED, OR WERE THEY TERMINATED (ACCORDING TO AN INTERVIEW OF DIAS FOR "O DIA" NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED APRIL 8, 1993, THE FORMER RELATIONSHIP HAS TERMINATED)?

7. WHEN ESCOBAR FLED, HAS THERE A REWARD OFFERED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HIS SUBSEQUENT WHEREABOUTS? IF SO, HOW MUCH HAS THE REWARD?

I CLARIFY TO YOU THAT THE ASSISTANCE NOW REQUESTED COULD CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO CLARIFICATION ABOUT THE EXISTENCE, OR NOT, OF THE CRIMINAL ALLEGATIONS BROUGHT AGAINST THE CIVIL AND MILITARY POLICE, AS DIVULGED AMPLY IN THE PRESS.

CORDIAL CLOSING STATEMENT NOT QUOTED.

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END OF QUOTE.

6. ONE VIEWPOINT HERE IS THAT THE CIVIL POLICE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP THEIR CASE AND WISHING TO DEVELOP A LINE OF INQUIRY HAVE ASKED THE USG TO PROVIDE SOME LEADS. ANOTHER VIEWPOINT IS THAT THE POLICE MAY BE LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT OF PURSUING THE INQUIRY BY POSITIONING THEMSELVES TO BASE A CONCLUSION ON OUR ABILITY/WILLINGNESS TO SUPPLY INFORMATION.

7. ALTHOUGH THE AGENDA OF THE INQUIRY IS NOT KNOWN -- IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE INQUIRY HAS FOCUSED ON WHETHER ESCOBAR COULD HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF EXTORTION, NOT ON WHETHER THE ACCUSED COULD HAVE RECEIVED A PAYOFF -- SO FAR THE CORREGEDOR HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN PUBLICIZING HIS ENDEAVORS: VISITING A HOUSE IN CABO FRIO AND CLAIMING IT IS PROBABLY WHERE ESCOBAR STAYED ANNOUNCING THAT HE HAS SEEKING FEDERAL POLICE ASSISTANCE IN THE INQUIRY, INCLUDING A REQUEST TO INTERVIEW THE INCARCERATED AMERICAN FUGITIVE FRANK DIAS, A REPUTED FORMER ESCOBAR ASSOCIATE; LEAKING TO THE TELEVISION AND NEWSPAPERS THAT HE HAD ASKED THE DEA FOR ASSISTANCE; ANNOUNCING THAT HE HAS CARRYING THE INQUIRY TO COLOMBIA WHERE HE WOULD WORK WITH THE DEA AND FBI (HE ADVISED THE VISITING LEGATT THAT WAS DISINFORMATION ON HIS PART TO PRESSURE CRIMINALS, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD PURSUE THE INQUIRY TO COLOMBIA IF HE RECEIVES AUTHORIZATION); AND THEN ADVISING A SPANISH NEWS AGENCY THAT HE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE A LETTER FROM ESCOBAR'S ATTORNEY, DENOUNCING THE RIO CIVIL POLICE FOR EXTORTION (HE ADMITTED TO THE VISITING LEGATT THAT HE DID NOT HAVE SUCH A LETTER, BUT HAD RECEIVED A PHONE CALL PROMISING SUCH A LETTER).

8. SINCE WE HAVE REPORTED TO DELEGADO ALVARO THAT WE HAVE NO CORROBORATION THAT ESCOBAR MAY HAVE VISITED BRAZIL OR RIO STATE, WE PROPOSE TO RESPOND TO THIS WRITTEN INQUIRY BY SIMPLY RELAYING ANY ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION THE MONTEVIDEO LEGATT MAY FURNISH. THE DIRECTION OF THE STATE POLICE INQUIRY DOES NOT APPEAR TO LEND ITSELF TO USG OBJECTIVES --

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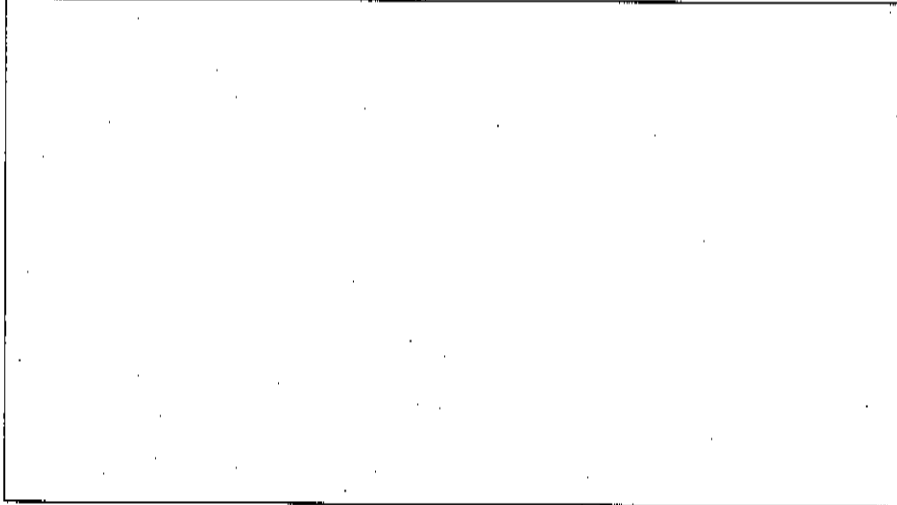
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ENCOURAGING THE BATTLE AGAINST CORRUPTION IN BRAZIL OR BRINGING ESCOBAR TO JUSTICE. YOUR GUIDANCE ON HANDLING THIS LATEST INQUIRY FROM THE CIVIL POLICE IS REQUESTED.

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END OF MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL



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CONTROLS: C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RIO DE JANEIRO 04639 MONTEVIDEO FOR LEGATT  
E.O. 12356: N/A  
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