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TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - SURRENDER OF PABLO ESCOBAR  
(REPORT NUMBER 4)

ORIGDATE: 199106242208

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 09594

TEXT:

H.KRAMER; PASS TO GREG BOGDAN, PIO FEDERAL BUREAU OF  
PRISONS AND OMAR OJEDA OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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E.O. 12356: SNAR, PREL, CO

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - SURRENDER OF PABLO ESCOBAR  
(REPORT NUMBER 4)

1. SECOND LEADING NATIONAL DAILY EL ESPECTADOR (LIBERAL  
PARTY ORIENTED, CIRC. 235,000) OF JUNE 24 CARRIES AN  
INTERVIEW WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE JAIME GIRALDO ON THE  
SURRENDER OF PABLO ESCOBAR AND THE STATUS OF THE DRUG  
WAR. BLOCK QUOTES FOLLOW:

2. "THE DRUG PROBLEM WILL REMAIN IN COLOMBIA SO LONG AS  
THERE IS NO EFFECTIVE ACTION TAKEN BY OTHER NATIONS.  
FIRST OF ALL, THE TOPIC OF NARCOTICS HAS BEEN PRESENTED  
IN THE WRONG WAY, THAT IS, IN TERMS OF THE EXISTENCE OF  
CONSUMING COUNTRIES AND PRODUCING COUNTRIES. THE  
ARGUMENT IS THAT WE PRODUCERS ARE TO BLAME BECAUSE WE  
ARE POISONING THE WHOLE WORLD WHILE THE CONSUMERS ARE  
THE TRUE VICTIMS OF THE SITUATION. THAT IS A  
PREMEDITATED LIE BY THE REAL BENEFICIARIES OF DRUG  
TRAFFICKING."

3. "SOME YEARS AGO THE U.S. SPONSORED A FIGHT AGAINST  
MARIJUANA IN COLOMBIA AND WE ERADICATED THE PLANTATIONS  
AND SPRAYED THE CROPS WITH HERBICIDES. NOW THE UNITED  
STATES IS THE TOP MARIJUANA PRODUCER IN THE WORLD. THE  
CROP IN THE U.S. HAD A VALUE LAST YEAR OF 55 BILLION  
DOLLARS....AND ONE DOES NOT HEAR ABOUT PLANTATIONS BEING  
ERADICATED IN THE U.S. OR THAT THEY ARE BEING SPRAYED

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior  
Reviewer

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WITH HERBICIDES....I WOULD SAY THAT AT THE MINIMUM THE FIGHT HAS TO BE FOUGHT BY ALL, AND THAT THE IMPORTERS HAVE TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FIGHTING THE PROBLEM AT HOME BECAUSE THEY ARE THE ONES WHO FINANCE AND GET RICH FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING. THEY SHOULD MOUNT THE SAME CAMPAIGN AGAINST MARIJUANA THAT THEY ASK US TO UNDERTAKE WITH COCAINE."

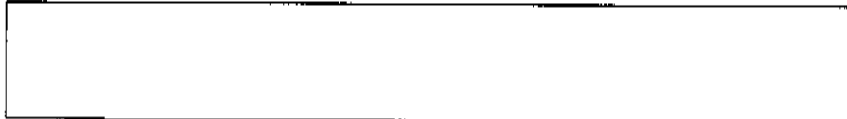
4. EL ESPECTADOR OF JUNE 23 CARRIED AN ARTICLE BY FORMER COLOMBIAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CURRENT AMBASSADOR IN SWITZERLAND, ENRIQUE PAREJO, ON THE ESCOBAR SURRENDER. PAREJO WAS OUTSPOKENLY CRITICAL OF THE CURRENT POLICY BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE GAVIRIA ADMINISTRATION. PAREJO HAS REPORTEDLY TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION BECAUSE OF THE CONTROVERSY HIS REMARKS PROVOKED. A SUMMARY OF THE ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF EL ESPECTADOR. TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

5. "THE GOVERNMENT HAS PASSED LEGISLATION IN ORDER TO ADHERE TO CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS....IT IS A PERMISSIVE AND TOLERANT POLICY AND IN THE MEANTIME HORRIBLE CRIMES CONTINUE....THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW HAS BEEN BROKEN....WHEN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY APPROVED NON-EXTRADITION, IT PUT A SHAMEFUL END WITH UNIMAGINABLE MORAL CONSEQUENCES TO THE PROCESS....THE HUGE FORTUNE AMASSED BY THE TRAFFICKERS AND STAINED WITH BLOOD HAS NOT BEEN TOUCHED AND WILL CONTINUE TO CORRUPT....THIS HAS NOT BEEN A SURRENDER BY THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS BUT RATHER A SUBMISSION BY THE STATE....WILL THE JUSTICE SYSTEM COME OUT OF THIS STRENGTHENED OR MORTALLY WOUNDED?" (END).

FALINO

END OF MESSAGE

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CPP/FRANK SHULTS DEPTJUSTICE FOR OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,

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