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TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - THE DRUG WAR AND THE  
SURRENDER OF NARCOTRAFFICKERS.

ORIGDATE: 199106112200

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 08812

TEXT:

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - THE DRUG WAR AND THE  
SURRENDER OF NARCOTRAFFICKERS.

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA  
PERS/ORG

1. OVER THE LONG COLOMBIAN WEEKEND, LEADING NATIONAL  
DAILY EL TIEMPO (LIBERAL PARTY ORIENTED, CIRC. 235,000)  
AND SECOND LEADING NATIONAL DAILY, EL ESPECTADOR  
(LIBERAL PARTY ORIENTED, CIRC. 140,000) CARRIED  
EDITORIALS ON THE DRUG WAR IN COLOMBIA AND THE POSSIBLE  
SURRENDER OF NARCO-KINGPIN PABLO ESCOBAR. BLOCK QUOTES  
FOLLOW:

2. EDITORIAL IN EL TIEMPO OF JUNE 9 ENTITLED "THERE  
ISN'T A WORSE BLIND PERSON," BY ENRIQUE SANTOS CALDERON:  
"FROM THE OUTSET, U.S. OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS HAVE  
SEVERLY CRITICIZED THE 'JUDICIAL INCENTIVES' POLICY  
(PLEA BARGAINING, NO EXTRADITION, ETC.) DESIGNED TO  
INDUCE THE SURRENDER OF THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS....IT IS  
ALMOST AS IF THE U.S. MIGHT BECOME ANGRY IF WE STOPPED  
OUR SUFFERING IN THE FACE OF THE NARCOTERRORISM CAMPAIGN  
THAT HAS ALMOST DESTROYED OUR COUNTRY. THE WAR AGAINST  
DRUGS IS DISAPPEARING AND THEY (THE U.S.) DO NOT SEEM TO  
TAKE TO WHAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE COLOMBIAN  
POPULATION HAS WELCOMED WITH UNQUESTIONABLE RELIEF."

3. "FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S POINT OF VIEW, IT MAKES  
MORE SENSE, AND IS PROBABLY MORE PROFITABLE, TO COMMIT  
THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT TO A WAR TO THE DEATH AGAINST  
THE COCAINE CARTELS RATHER THAN TAKE ON ITS OWN  
RESPONSIBILITIES -- ECONOMIC AND OTHERWISE -- IN AN  
EFFORT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM CAUSED BY THE MASSIVE DEMAND  
OF ITS CONSUMING POPULATION....WE PROVIDE THE DEAD AND  
THEY DON'T EVEN PROVIDE THE MONEY. IT IS INCREDIBLE  
THAT PEOPLE EXIST WHO DO NOT AGREE WITH THE PROSPECT OF  
COLOMBIA BURYING NARCOTERRORISM ONCE AND FOR ALL."

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior  
Reviewer

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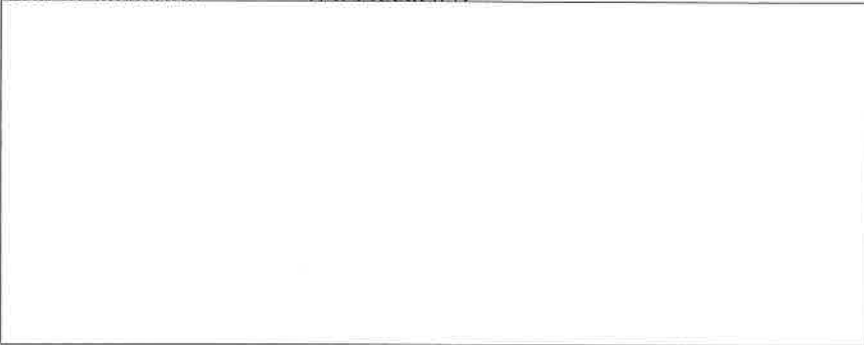
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4. EDITORIAL IN EL ESPECTADOR OF JUNE 8 ENTITLED "THE COLLECTIVE EFFECTS OF NARCOTERRORISM," BY GONZALO MALLARINO: "WE ARE SURROUNDED BY DISILLUSIONMENT AS WE WITNESS THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO PREVENT TERRORISM, COUPLED WITH THE SHAMEFUL HOPE OF REACHING SOME KIND OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THESE TERRORISTS. PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY FORGOTTEN THE MAGNITUDE OF THEIR CRIMES AND THE SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF THEIR OPPOSING NUMBER."

5. "NOW, WHAT FEAR DICTATES IS TO SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR A SIGN THAT MAY INDICATE THAT THIS DESTRUCTIVE FORCE HAS BECOME A GENTEEL AND WELL-INTENTIONED POWER...THE RELEASE OF TWO WELL-KNOWN JOURNALISTS, FOR WHICH WE REJOICE, IS CONSIDERED BY SOME PEOPLE TO BE A SIGN THAT THIS COLOSSAL ENEMY IS IN GOOD SPIRITS. THOSE SAME PEOPLE HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE TORTURES OUR COLLEAGUES ENDURED " (END).

FALINO

END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED



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