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TITLE: SUBJECT: EX-NARCO HOSTAGE, HUSBAND SAY ORDEAL NOT OVER

- UNTIL ESCOBAR SURRENDERS

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TEXT:

TAGS: SNAR, PGOV, PINR, CO

COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: EX-NARCO HOSTAGE, HUSBAND SAY ORDEAL NOT OVER

- UNTIL ESCOBAR SURRENDERS

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: RECENTLY FREED NARCO-HOSTAGE MARUJA PACHON AND HER HUSBAND, CONGRESSMAN ALBERTO VILLAMIZAR, TOLD POLOFF THAT THE OCHOA FAMILY HAD PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN CONVINCING PABLO ESCOBAR TO SURRENDER.

VILLAMIZAR, WHO TRAVELED TWICE TO ANTIOQUIA WITH TV PRIEST GARCIA HERREROS, DENIED REPORTS THE ELDERLY PRIEST HAD MET WITH ESCOBAR A SECOND TIME. NOW THAT ESCOBAR'S LAWYERS ARE TALKING DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO VILLAMIZAR, GARCIA'S ONLY REMAINING TASK IS TO BE PRESENT AT THE DRUGLORD'S SURRENDER. A LONGTIME NARCO FOE, VILLAMIZAR SAID HIS PERSONAL VENDETTA WITH ESCOBAR WON'T END UNTIL THE MAFIOSO IS DEAD OR BEHIND BARS. END SUMMARY.

3. POLOFF MET MAY 28 WITH RECENTLY RELEASED NARCO-HOSTAGE MARUJA PACHON AND HER HUSBAND, LIBERAL CONGRESSMAN ALBERTO VILLAMIZAR, IN THEIR BOGOTA APARTMENT. ABOUT A HALF DOZEN UNIFORMED POLICE GUARDED THE ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING, AND A PLAINCLOTHES DAS (ROUGH FBI EQUIVALENT) AGENT ESCORTED POLOFF UP TO THE APARTMENT.

CATHOLIC COLOMBIA BELIEVES IN MIRACLES

4. THE VILLAMIZARS SAID THAT TO UNDERSTAND THE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior  
Reviewer

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PHENOMENON OF TELEPRIEST RAFAEL GARCIA HERREROS' SUCCESSFUL MEDIATION EFFORTS WITH PABLO ESCOBAR AND THE SUBSEQUENT RELEASE MAY 20 OF PACHON AND EL TIEMPO EDITOR FRANCISCO SANTOS ONE HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT. COLOMBIA IS A CATHOLIC COUNTRY THAT BELIEVES IN MIRACLES, AND THE RELEASE OF PACHON AND SANTOS WAS JUST SUCH A PHENOMENON. SO WOULD BE ESCOBAR'S SURRENDER.

5. IN ADDITION, FATHER GARCIA, COLOMBIA'S BEST-KNOWN AND MOST LOVED PRIEST FOR HIS NIGHTLY TV BROADCAST, "THE MINUTE OF GOD," AND HIS MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE HAS A SPECIAL RELIGIOUS KARMA FOR COLOMBIANS. THAT ESCOBAR SHOULD PLACE HIS TRUST IN FATHER GARCIA DOES NOT STRIKE COLOMBIANS AS STRANGE.

6. IN CALLING ATTENTION TO THE RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL FACTORS, THE VILLAMIZARS DID NOT DOWNPLAY MORE TANGIBLE ONES. THEY BOTH BELIEVE ESCOBAR USED THE HOSTAGES TO PRESSURE THE CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY INTO BANNING EXTRADITION, AND WERE SURE SHE STILL WOULD BE A HOSTAGE IF ESCOBAR WERE NOT SURE THE ASSEMBLY WOULD COME THROUGH.

7. VILLAMIZAR AND THE 84-YEAR-OLD GARCIA ARE BOTH FROM CUCUTA, AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN CLOSE SINCE BEFORE VILLAMIZAR WAS BORN. IT WAS PARTIALLY THAT BOND THAT MOTIVATED THE PRIEST TO ACT ON PACHON'S BEHALF.

HOSTAGE'S HUSBAND PLAYED ROLE IN GETTING HER BACK  
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8. AFTER HIS WIFE WAS FREED, VILLAMIZAR AND FATHER GARCIA ADMITTED THAT VILLAMIZAR HAD ACCOMPANIED THE PRIEST ON THE LAST TWO OF HIS THREE TRIPS TO ANTIOQUIA. VILLAMIZAR, HOWEVER, DOWNPLAYED HIS ROLE IN EVENTS, DENYING HE WAS THE UNNAMED AFFLUENT PERSON "PERSONA DE BIEN" FATHER GARCIA TOLD SEMANA MAGAZINE HAD SOUGHT HIS INTERVENTION. VILLAMIZAR WAS WITH GARCIA AND THE OCHOAS' FATHER, DON FABIO, ON GARCIA'S SECOND TRIP, BUT DID NOT ACCOMPANY THE PRIEST TO HIS MEETING WITH ESCOBAR. GARCIA HAD MADE ONE PREVIOUS TRIP TO ANTIOQUIA

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(THE FIRST OF THREE) WITHOUT VILLAMIZAR, DURING WHICH THE PRIEST VISITED THE OCHOA BROTHERS IN PRISON.

TELEPRIEST MET WITH ESCOBAR ONLY ONCE

9. VILLAMIZAR DENIED STATEMENTS BY GARCIA THAT THE PRIEST MET AGAIN WITH ESCOBAR ON THEIR SECOND TRIP TOGETHER MAY 21. VILLAMIZAR SAID THAT THE SECOND TRIP WAS A HURRIED, ONE-DAY AFFAIR TO INSPECT THE ENVIGADO DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER THAT IS BEING TRANSFORMED INTO A JAIL FOR ESCOBAR. VILLAMIZAR SAID THAT FATHER GARCIA NEITHER MET ESCOBAR ON THAT TRIP NOR VISITED THE AREA FARM WHERE HE HAD PREVIOUSLY MET ESCOBAR.

OCHOAS HELPED CONVINCING PABLO TO SURRENDER

10. VILLAMIZAR SAID THAT THE OCHOA BROTHERS' FATHER AND SISTERS HAD BEEN KEY TO THE ESCOBAR SURRENDER NEGOTIATIONS. THE OCHOAS HAD PUT FATHER GARCIA IN CONTACT WITH ESCOBAR. THE OCHOAS' MOTIVATION IS THE SAFETY OF THE INCARCERATED BROTHERS, WHOM THEY BELIEVE WOULD BE MORE SECURE WITH ESCOBAR VOLUNTARILY IN JAIL. NARCO-TERRORISM, THEY SEEMED TO THINK, WOULD BE A THING OF THE PAST.

ENVIGADO DOESN'T NEED ESCOBAR'S MONEY

11. VILLAMIZAR DID NOT THINK ESCOBAR WAS PAYING FOR THE WORK AT THE ENVIGADO JAIL NOR THAT ENVIGADO WOULD NEED SUCH ASSISTANCE. ENVIGADO SHARES THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF ITS NEIGHBOR, MEDELLIN, AND THEREFORE HAS A SOLID TAX BASE. THE 120 MILLION PESOS (ROUGHLY USDOL 195,000) THAT ENVIGADO'S MAYOR SAID THE PREPARATION OF THE FACILITY WOULD COST WOULD BE A DROP IN THE BUCKET FOR THE CITY, VILLAMIZAR SAID.

ONE FINAL JOURNEY FOR PADRE

12. VILLAMIZAR SAID THAT FATHER GARCIA NOW WAS OUT OF THE LOOP AS ESCOBAR'S MEDIATOR NOW THAT ESCOBAR'S

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LAWYERS WERE NEGOTIATING DIRECTLY WITH JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES. FATHER GARCIA PLANNED JUST ONE MORE TRIP TO ANTIOQUIA, FOR ESCOBAR'S SURRENDER. FATHER GARCIA HAS ASKED VILLAMIZAR TO ACCOMPANY HIM AGAIN, BUT HIS WIFE DOESN'T WANT HIM TO. VILLAMIZAR IS UNDECIDED.

## NOTHING MATTERS BUT ESCOBAR'S SURRENDER

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13. PACHON AND VILLAMIZAR AGREED THAT HER FREEDOM IN AND OF ITSELF MEANS NOTHING TO THEM. WHAT COUNTS IS ESCOBAR'S SURRENDER. IF THEY CANNOT FEEL THAT PACHON'S RELEASE WAS LINKED TO ESCOBAR'S INCARCERATION, THEY WILL FEEL THAT THEIR SUFFERING WAS A WASTE.

14. VILLAMIZAR, WHO EARLIER IN HIS CONGRESSIONAL CAREER WAS A STAUNCH NARCO FOE AND DEFENDER OF EXTRADITION, SAID HE HAD A KIND OF PERSONAL FEUD WITH ESCOBAR THAT NEITHER BEGAN WITH HIS WIFE'S ABDUCTION NOR ENDED WITH HER RELEASE. ESCOBAR HAD CAUSED HIM GREAT SUFFERING, SEVERAL TIMES OVER. IT BEGAN, HE SAID, IN 1984 WITH ESCOBAR'S ASSASSINATION OF JUSTICE MINISTER LARA BONILLA, WHO LIKE VILLAMIZAR BELONGED TO THE LIBERAL PARTY'S "NEW LIBERALISM" FACTION, LED BY LUIS CARLOS GALAN, VILLAMIZAR'S BROTHER-IN-LAW (GALAN WAS MARRIED TO PACHON'S SISTER). IN OCTOBER 1986, THREE NARCO SICARIOS TRIED BUT FAILED TO GUN DOWN VILLAMIZAR AS HE LEFT HIS BOGOTA HOME. AT THE TIME, NARCO-FOE VILLAMIZAR WAS CHAIRING A HOUSE COMMISSION DEBATING THE U.S.-COLOMBIAN EXTRADITION TREATY. NEXT WAS THE 1987 WOUNDING OF EX-JUSTICE MINISTER PAREJO, ALSO FROM NEW LIBERALISM, DURING A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IN BUDAPEST WHERE HE WAS SERVING AS AMBASSADOR. THEN CAME THE 1989 ASSASSINATION OF THE CHARISMATIC, STAUNCH-NARCO FOE GALAN HIMSELF. LAST WAS THE NOVEMBER KIDNAPPING TOGETHER OF BOTH PACHON AND VILLAMIZAR'S SISTER. HIS SISTER WAS FREED IN FEBRUARY. THEIR IS NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN HIM AND ESCOBAR. THE BOTTOM LINE FOR HIM IS THAT HE WILL NOT BE HAPPY UNTIL ESCOBAR EITHER IS BEHIND BARS OR DEAD.

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OWES A DEBT TO THE UNITED STATES

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15. VILLAMIZAR SAID HE WAS WILLING TO TALK TO AN EMBOFF ABOUT SUCH SENSITIVE MATTERS BECAUSE HE OWED A DEBT TO THE UNITED STATES. AFTER THE 1986 ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE, THE EMBASSY LOANED HIM AN ARMORED VEHICLE. WHILE SERVING AS AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA IN 1988, WHERE HE WAS SENT TO ESCAPE NARCO THREATS, HE SAID HE WENT TO THEN U.S. AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA WOLFOWITZ WHEN HE GOT WIND THAT A DANGEROUS COLOMBIAN CRIMINAL WAS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. ALTHOUGH IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE SUBJECT WASN'T ON A MISSION TO KILL VILLAMIZAR, HE SAID WOLFOWITZ HAD HAD U.S. AGENTS ARREST THE SUSPECT.

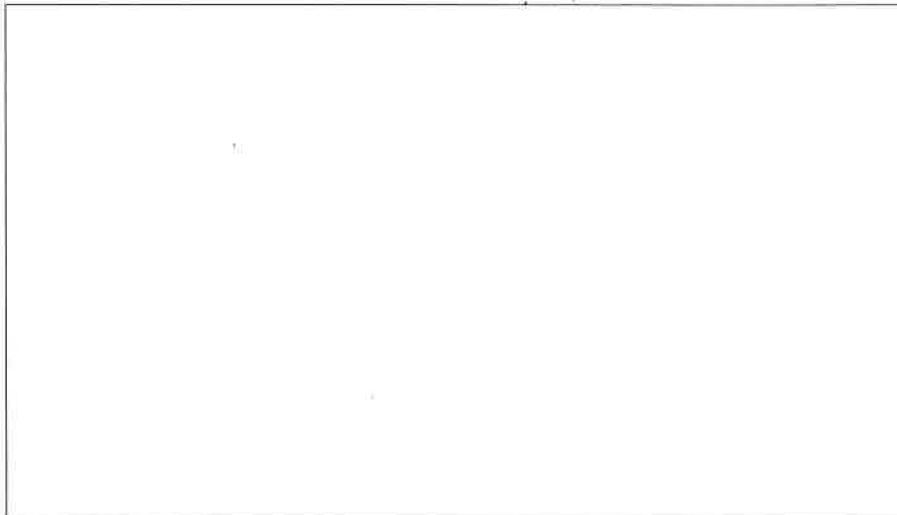
GOOD NEWS FOR COLOMBIA IS GOOD NEWS FOR US

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16. VILLAMIZAR SAID THAT ESCOBAR'S APPARENTLY IMMINEENT SURRENDER WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD ENDING NARCO-TERRORISM IN COLOMBIA, THE GOVERNMENT'S HIGHEST ANTI-NARCOTICS PRIORITY. HE OPINED THAT ONCE NARCO-TERRORISM WAS A THING OF THE PAST, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ABLE TO FOCUS MORE ON COMBATTING TRAFFICKING.

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END OF MESSAGE

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P <ORIGDTG>312310Z MAY 91</ORIGDTG>

<FROM>FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA</FROM>

<TO>TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5743</TO>

INFO RUEBWJA/DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC

RUEHNA/DEA WASHDC

RUEHFB/DIRFBI WASHDC

RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 9348

RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 9223

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