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TITLE: SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - THE U.S. AND THE DRUG WAR IN COLOMBIA.

ORIGDATE: 199105241903

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 07894

TEXT:

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - THE U.S. AND THE DRUG WAR IN COLOMBIA.

1. LEADING NATIONAL DAILY EL TIEMPO (LIBERAL PARTY ORIENTED, CIRC. 235,000) OF MAY 24 CARRIES AN EDITORIAL BY ROBERTO POSADA (PEN NAME "D'ARTAGNAN") ENTITLED "UNCLE SAM IS ANGRY." THE EDITORIAL DEALS WITH DRUG KING PIN PABLO ESCOBAR'S POSSIBLE SURRENDER AND THE APPROVAL OF NON-EXTRADITION BY THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. BLOCK QUOTES FOLLOW:

2. "WHEN SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT PABLO ESCOBAR 'IS A GOOD MAN'....MANY COLOMBIANS CRINGE. NOT TO MENTION WHAT THOSE WORDS SOUND LIKE TO THE U.S. AUTHORITIES....WHAT IS COMING TO US, CONCERNING OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, WILL NOT BE EASY TO HANDLE....SINCE THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT DECREED MONETARY AMNESTY, MORE THAN 590 MILLION DOLLARS HAVE COME INTO THE COUNTRY IN A THREE MONTH PERIOD. THESE DOLLARS ARE NOT ALL CLEAN, ALTHOUGH SOME MAY HAVE HAD A 'HEALTHY' ORIGIN, EVEN IF THEY WERE KEPT ABROAD UNTIL THE AMNESTY CAME INTO EFFECT. THAT MAKES THE MONEY ILLEGAL UNTIL THAT MOMENT, ESPECIALLY FOR THE COLOMBIANS WHO DO NOT LIVE ABROAD. THIS MEASURE....PLUS THE FACT THAT THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WILL NOT DELIVER PABLO ESCOBAR TO THE U.S. AUTHORITIES UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IF HE SURRENDERS, COULD BE COMPLICATING THE BILATERAL RELATIONS, PERHAPS DAMAGING THEM. EVEN MORE SO WHEN, AFTER THE VICTORY IN THE PERSIAN GULF, THE U.S. LACKS AN IDEOLOGICAL ISSUE TO FIGHT AGAINST, UNLESS IT IS THE DRUG TRAFFICKING SCOURGE, LOOKED AT FROM ITS OWN POINT OF VIEW."

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

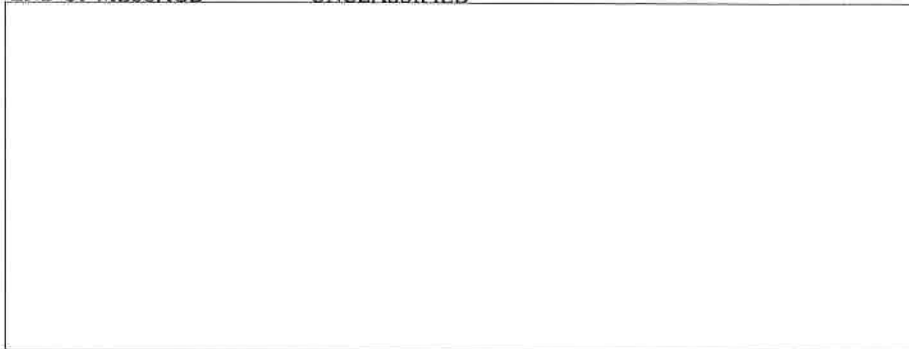
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3. "THE DISAPPEARANCE OF COMMUNISM ALLOWS FOR POSSIBLE NEW AND ARBITRARY ATTACKS, WITH THE EXCUSE THAT THE COCA PRODUCING NATIONS LIKE COLOMBIA CANNOT HANDLE THIS MATTER OR WHAT INDIRECTLY COMES FROM IT, LIKE A JUDICIAL SYSTEM THAT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS WEAK AND TARNISHED, SUBJECT TO CONSTANT CORRUPTION. THE COST OF FIXING THE PROBLEM INTERNALLY COULD BE VERY HIGH. THE U.S. IS TODAY THE ONE AND ONLY EMPIRE. AND AS SUCH IT WILL WANT TO IMPOSE ITS RULES THE WAY IT SEES FIT. THIS IN TURN IS THE FACTOR THAT HAS GENERATED NARCOTERRORISM IN OUR COUNTRY: THE BOMBS AND KIDNAPPINGS AND DEATHS."

4. "IN THIS UNFAIR WAR WHERE THE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES IS STILL A COMPLETELY UNBALANCED CONCEPT, THERE IS STILL A LOT TO LOOSE....I EVEN THINK THAT TALKS AND NEGOTIATIONS LIKE THE ONES PLANNED WITH CARLA HILLS COULD BE FRUSTRATED UNDER ANY EXCUSE. WITH 'NARCOTICIZED' RELATIONS IT IS HARD TO GET THEM TO BUY OUR PRODUCTS -- OR AT LEAST GIVE THEM BETTER TREATMENT -- IF WE DO NOT OBEY THE AMERICANS' RULES REGARDING DRUG TRAFFICKING. THE PERSPECTIVE OF BAD TREATMENT FOR COLOMBIAN PASSENGERS IN MIAMI, NEW YORK AND LOS ANGELES....AS WELL AS OBSTACLES AND HOSTILITIES TOWARD OUR EXPORTS, IS ALMOST INEVITABLE....A WORRISOME PANORAMA CAN BE FORESEEN, UNLESS MR. BUSH, MR. MARTINEZ AND NOW MR. BUSBY -- NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA AND AN EXPERT ON TERRORISM (SIC) -- COULD UNDERSTAND COLOMBIA'S PROBLEMS WITH A DEGREE OF REALISM." (END).
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<FROM>FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA</FROM>

<TO>TO RUEHFO/USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5533

RUEADWW/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEHNA/DEA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUCPDC/USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE 0053

RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE 9161

RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE 9573</TO>

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