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REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

CONTROLS:

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

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BODY:

TAGS: SNAR, KJUS, CO

SUBJECT: PAREJO AGAIN QUESTIONS TERMS OF ESCOBAR'S
SURRENDER AND IMPRISONMENT

1. (U) IN HIS LATEST BROADSIDE AGAINST THE TERMS OF PABLO ESCOBAR'S SURRENDER AND IMPRISONMENT, FORMER JUSTICE MINISTER ENRIQUE PAREJO HAS ASKED THE COUNTRY'S PROCURADOR (ATTORNEY GENERAL) TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER DANDENYS MUNOZ MOSQUERA (AKA LA QUICA) AND HIS BROTHER, BRANCES, VISITED ENVIGADO PRISON PRIOR TO LA QUICA'S ILL-FATED TRIP TO THE U.S. PAREJO'S DEMAND CAME IN REACTION TO A RECENT STORY IN THE NEWSWEEKLY SEMANA IN WHICH SUCH A VISIT WAS ALLEGED.

2. (U) IN A LETTER RELEASED TO THE PRESS, PAREJO ASKED "CAN THE GOVERNMENT HONESTLY CONTINUE SPEAKING OF A SURRENDER TO JUSTICE ON THE PART OF MEMBERS OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL WHEN THE CHIEF OF THAT CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION CAN CONVENE, IN HIS PLACE OF CONFINEMENT, MEETINGS WITH SICARIOS (ASSASSINS)?" HE WENT ON TO ASK WHO HAD ALLOWED THEM TO ENTER AND ANSWERED HIS OWN QUESTION WITH "NOBODY KNOWS."

3. (U) PAREJO ALSO QUESTIONED ESCOBAR'S ISSUANCE OF COMMUNIQUES FROM ENVIGADO. "HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE CHIEF OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL IS PERMITTED TO SEND "COMMUNIQUES" FROM THE "JAIL" (QUOTATION MARKS WERE ADDED BY PAREJO) SO THAT, WITH THE SEAL OF THE DIRECTORATE OF NATIONAL PRISONS, THEY ARE PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS?"

4. (U) PAREJO ENDED THE LETTER IN HIS USUAL ACERBIC STYLE: "BEFORE THIS GOVERNMENT TOOK POWER, MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL, PRISONERS DIDN'T HAVE THESE POSSIBILITIES (OF SENDING COMMUNIQUES AND RECEIVING UNAUTHORIZED GUESTS). ALL OF THEIR COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS HAD TO BE MADE THROUGH JUDGES, OFFICERS OF THE PROCURADOR'S OFFICE OR THEIR LAWYERS. WHAT KIND OF COUNTRY IS COLOMBIA BECOMING WHEN ALL THESE THINGS HAPPEN, WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT FEELING IT NECESSARY TO GIVE EXPLANATIONS TO THE PUBLIC AND WITHOUT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE BOTHERING TO TAKE ACTIONS TO PREVENT AND CORRECT THESE GRAVE IRREGULARITIES, SOME OF WHICH CONSTITUTE TRULY CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR?"

4. (C) COMMENT: PAREJO CONTINUES HIS RELENTLESS ATTACKS DESPITE EXTREME DANGER AND LITTLE INDICATION OF PUBLIC SUPPORT. PUBLIC FEELING WAS PERHAPS BEST DEMONSTRATED IN A YEAR-END SEMANA-MAGAZINE POLL THAT SHOWED GAVIRIA'S HANDLING OF NARCO ISSUES TO BE A KEY IN

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HIS HIGH POPULARITY RATINGS (ONLY THE NEW CONSTITUTION
WAS CONSIDERED A GREATER ACHIEVEMENT). PAREJO,
MEANWHILE, MAY TEST HIS OWN POPULARITY IN MARCH 8
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS BY LEADING A LIBERAL/CALANISTA
TICKET FOR THE BOGOTA CITY COUNCIL. HOBBS

ADMIN:

END OF MESSAGE

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